Resumption of face-to-face classes in the works at PSS. PAGE 2
OPINION: Can you be sued over a bad online review? PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 178

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IPI told to pay USA Fanter

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI ruled in favor of U.S.A Fanter Corp. yesterday in its petition for a mechanic's lien, netting over $2 million against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

According to District Court for the NMI chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling, after considering the testimony and exhibits presented at the bench trial back in June and the admissions of the parties in their pleadings, she found that U.S.A Fanter is entitled to a mechanic's lien in the amount of $2,089,345.28.

In her ruling, Manglona added that the most reliable calculation for the value of the work that U.S.A Fanter com-

See IPI on Page 3

IPI's Browne feels CNMI govt wants them out

» Guerrero skeptical about supporting IPI's bid to reopen casino

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Donald R. Browne stated that the CNMI government's actions are causing them to think that it does not want them here.

Browne

Guerrero

"There's word on the street that there are already three or four other people lined up to take our livelihood away.

See BROWNE on Page 3

Pandemic turns summer into tourism's leanest season

By RAF CASERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUGES, Belgium (AP)—Bruges mayor Dirk De fauw first realized something was desperately wrong with European tourism when on a brisk March morning he crossed the Burg square in front of the Gothic city hall and there was nothing but silence.

"There are always people. Always," De fauw said. That morning?

See PANDEMIC on Page 3

Guam sees 2 more fatalities

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With Guam's COVID-19 cases continuing to climb, so does its number of COVID-19-related fatalities. Yesterday, Guam confirmed two more COVID-19 deaths, including a 31-year-old woman, Guam's youngest COVID-19 related death to date.

The grim toll started at the onset of September, with three deaths reported on Sept. 1, Guam's 11th, 12th, an 13th fatalities—a 73-year-old wom-

See GUAM on Page 3

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 7, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,619	0	1,619
Recovered	744	0	744
Active	861	0	861
Deaths	16	2	18
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			40,268

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	58	0	58
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,920*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

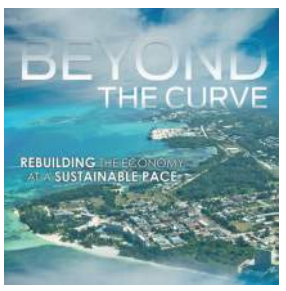
COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

RESTORATION PROJECT
Docomo Pacific Saipan continues with its Docomo Pacific Saipan Restoration Project, which aims to repair portions of the sidewalk that have been damaged by previous road projects. Here, Jeida Guam Construction workers, which Docomo hired from Guam to handle this project, use a concrete saw to cut out the damaged portions of a Chalan Piao sidewalk. The restoration project officially started last Saturday, Sept. 5, at the Ana Market in Koblerville. Plans to work on other locations are in the works.
NEIL FAMA

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT
Today's issue comes with a pullout supplement called "Beyond the Curve" starting on Page 7.

PAGE 7

SUPPLEMENT
CNMI businesses are coming up with creative ways to meet their customers' needs.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Desperate for a drink? The Disgusting Food Museum in Malmo, Sweden, is introducing a drinks menu.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Resumption of face-to-face classes in the works at PSS

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New directives come with new orders and, according to the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, one of the orders under the new directives is that schools will be able to reopen for face-to-face classes.

Villagomez stated in last Friday's radio news briefing that Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña has rounded up a team to work with the Public School System, as well as other schools, on reopening schools for face-to-face classes.

Villagomez said that they want to work with PSS to get the schools "back to normalcy."

Marianas High School English Language Arts teacher John Darag says the challenging thing he faces is migrating his classes online. He believes, though, that if he can incorporate the same strategies he has been doing to his online classes, then it will be "doable."

Darag said that he wants to be sure to build trust in his students that they can navigate online classes until they resume face-to-face classes. "It's important that once they log into the online platform, you're there to assist them, you're there to kind of help them navigate. …We can't teach everything until they're comfortable being online. I think a lot of it is nurturing them first, [and, kind of guiding them in the process," said Darag.

From left, Marianas High School vice principal Melanie Rdiall, Marianas High School teacher John Darag, and MHS interim principal Christine Tudela pose for a photo after a tour of what the MHS model classroom looks, which all classrooms will soon follow for the resumption of face-to-face classes. JUSTINE NAUTA

One of the many strategies Darag has planned for remote learning is giving his students opportunities to engage with, such as online games, collaborative sessions online, and making things electronically in order to get them used to the platform.

Darag says that one of the difficult things he will have to tackle this year is students who have limited technology and one thing he will miss is the physical interactions he has with his students, and the student-teacher relationship when you get to know them.

"The challenge is getting that same intensity when you see them in an online platform. It's going to be very difficult, we have a lot of things that we will not be able to do," said Darag.

Settlement Fund trustee's bill for over $108K is OK'd

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has approved the request of the Settlement Fund trustee for compensation and reimbursement netting over $108,000.

District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood approved last week the request of Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang for compensation and reimbursement for her expenses.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the Settlement Fund last Thursday to pay Tang $108,890.40, stating that the amount is reasonable.

The judge said the amount represents 90% of the trustee's professional fees and all expenses incurred during the months of November 2019 through July 2020.

She also ordered the Settlement Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the trustee the sum of $11,522.25, which represents 10% of the trustee's professional fees for this period.

Tydingco-Gatewood added Tang may petition for the release of the 10% retainer on a quarterly basis, subject to the court's satisfaction of the trustee's work and any objections to the trustee's compensation requests.

The judge said objections to Tang's request for remuneration may be made within 10 days of the order by the plaintiff, class counsel, and counsel for the CNMI government.

Tang has also petitioned for the release of the 10% retainer withheld from previous invoices during the months of May through October 2019. Since there were no objections to the invoices stated on Tang's petition and the court being satisfied with her work, Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the Settlement Fund to pay her an additional sum of $7,397.50.

Tang also asked for her rate to be increased from $250 per hour to $350 per hour, effective June 11, 2019, which Tydingco-Gatewood also approved, stating it was reasonable, particularly because of the Fund's positive financial status and better-than-expected investment return during this fiscal year.

Settlement talks in Hillbroom lawsuit continue

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The parties in the lawsuit filed by Junior Larry Hillbroom against his former lawyer continue to talk about the terms of a possible settlement.

During a status conference hearing in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week, the parties informed the court that settlement discussions between Hillbroom and his former attorney, David Lujan, will continue.

Hillbroom's counsel, attorney Rachel Dimitruk, and Lujan told District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona that a settlement has yet to be reached because they have not heard back from the mediator yet.

Hillbroom sued his former attorneys, Lujan and Barry Israel, on the grounds of legal malpractice, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and violations of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act for alleged mismanagement of approximately $90 million that he inherited from his father, Larry Lee Hillblom, co-founder and former owner of DHL Worldwide Express.

Hillbroom also sued Keith Waibel, former trustee of his assets, for conspiracy.

He accused the three of conspiring to inflate their fees when Hillblom's wealth was undergoing probate. He has already come to a settlement with Israel.

At last week's status conference, Waibel, who represented himself, asked the court for a copy of the settlement agreement between Hillbroom and Israel from when Hillbroom agreed to dismiss Israel from the lawsuit after the two agreed to settle back in July. However, Israel's attorney, Theodore Frank, and Dimitruk told the court that they are not allowed to disclose the settlement agreement.

Israel recently filed a motion for summary judgment for his cross-claims against Waibel for defamation.

Israel asked the court to enter a judgment against Waibel and issue an award of $1,442,877.67 and punitive damages in the amount of $400,000.

Manglona will hear Israel's motion for summary judgment on Oct. 1 at 8:30am.

Manglona also reset the trial for Dec. 1 at 10am.

Israel and Lujan secured $90 million for Hillbroom from the Larry Lee Hillblom estate. However, Hillbroom sued his former lawyers and Waibel when he came of age because they allegedly committed extrinsic fraud on the Guam guardianship court by denying him a fair opportunity to challenge their 56% retainer.

Hillbroom, a Palauan, is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

The three other children are Jellian Cuartero, a Filipino; Mercedita Feliciano, a Filipino; and Nguyen Be Lory, a Vietnamese.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on a flight from Pagan Island to Saipan on May 21, 1995, leaving behind an estate worth approximately $550 million. The bodies of the pilot and a business partner were found, but Hillblom's body was never recovered.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-030

INSTALLATION OF GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) FILTER FOR TEN (10) WELLS (W19-072)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new GAC filter, strainer, flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, pressure release valves, concrete pad and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-030, *Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells"*,** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 06, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NWS: Strong thunderstorms over Saipan waters

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam predicts strong thunderstorms in the waters off Saipan.

Based on information received from the NWS and compiled at CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the areas affected include Saipan coastal waters. Satellite imagery indicated strong thunderstorms capable of producing gusts to around 25 knots. These thunderstorms were located approximately 20 to 25 miles north and northeast of Saipan. The thunderstorms are moving slowly southeast.

Mariners can expect gusty winds to around 25 knots, locally higher waves, and lightning strikes. Boaters should seek safe harbor immediately until these storms pass. Frequent lightning is occurring with these storms. If caught on the open water stay below deck if possible. Keep away from ungrounded metal objects.

Report severe weather to the U.S. Coast Guard or nearest law enforcement agency. They will relay your report to the NWS. ***(PR)***

CEC still waiting for ballots to arrive

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is waiting for the ballots to come in from Nebraska as Sept. 19 is the target date to start early voting for the Northern Islands.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are expecting the ballots to arrive by Sept. 14.

Igitol said they have been emailing Nebraska-based Election Systems and Software that is printing the ballots.

The seven-day early voting for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Northern Islands will start on Oct. 27.

Igitol said they are already accepting requests for absentee ballots starting last Aug. 20.

Oct. 9 is the deadline for application for absentee voting by electronic/mail.

Last Aug. 25, the CEC board approved a resolution certifying the names of 68 candidates, including two judges and one associate justice, for meeting the requirements of law to be placed on the ballot for the Nov. 3 general election.

The CEC board, chaired by Jesus I. Sablan, also approved the ballot layout.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez said not one among those who filed their candidacies was disqualified.

The certified candidates are 21 Republicans, 18 Democrats, nine independents, and 20 non-partisans.

Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who are up for retention on the bench, are considered non-partisans. The other non-partisans are candidates for municipal council and Board of Education.

BROWNE

From Page 1

We can't stand for that," said Browne during a meeting last Wednesday with members of the House of Representatives Gaming Committee, which Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) chairs.

That uncertainty whether IPI will retain its casino gaming license is also putting a wrench on a reopening plan for the casino, Browne said. "We can run a hotel, I'm sure. But we came here for gaming," he pointed out in response to the questions and concerns raised by Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan).

For now, Guerrero said, he is still unsure about supporting IPI's bid to reopen its casino, citing the company's involvement in so many court proceedings. "I don't know where you guys are in these court proceedings right now," said the lawmaker, noting that IPI has been sued left and right on matters pertaining to nonpayment of services. Guerrero said there is also concern about employees not getting paid. "How's that addressed?"

Most of all, though, Guerrero said he'd like to know what plan IPI has with reopening the casino. He wonders how IPI is going to survive if it can't bring in the gamblers. "Who's [going to] patronize [the casino]? Are we looking at the locals? Because I don't see that's going to happen. So what is IPI's plan when it does open?" the lawmaker asked.

He clarified, though, that he fully supports the intent of having a casino industry because of its economic impact. He said the casino industry gave the CNMI a huge hope to revive its economy because the CNMI's only industry, the tourism industry, was at the time suffering from other competing destinations. That was one of the rationale behind his initial support of the casino industry, he said. As the time goes on, though, Guerrero said the casino industry was not moving in the right direction and that the casino license agreement went through so many amendments.

Now he wants to know about IPI's plan on how revive this casino industry and what's IPI's game plan if Gov. Ralph DLG Torres allows them to reopen the casino. "Is there a plan in motion? We, as the committee, want to hear," he said.

Browne said they understand the frustration of the lawmaker, who has been a supporter of the casino industry. "Our labor issues are the same as everybody else's labor issues right now," said the CEO, adding that their reopening plans are essentially the same as everybody else's right now. "It's unknown [due] to a number of factors."

Browne said the reopening plans are also contingent upon many things such as the relationship between the Trump administration and China.

He said the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands stated that most of the hotels will probably not open until May 2021 because of the lack of airlines.

With respect to its foreign workers, Browne said if they send them back to their home country, they don't have to pay them but, as long as they're here, they're IPI employees so they have to pay them even if they don't open.

IPI

From Page 1

pleted is $2,389,345.28 because IPI only paid USA Fanter $300,000 and it still owes the contractor $2,089,345.28 for the value of improvements made to the property.

USA Fanter applied for a mechanic's lien on the IPI casino back in Feb. 6, 2020.

Attorney Colin Thompson, who represents U.S.A Fanter, originally sued IPI for breach of contract in the amount of $2 million. Thompson said IPI did not pay the full amount due to USA Fanter under the construction contract for the labor and materials the company provided for the improvement of the IPI property. Thompson said IPI only paid USA Fanter $300,000 and that the unpaid balance due is not less than $2,089,345.28.

IPI, through counsel Stephen Nutting, claimed during trial that USA Fanter overcharged IPI for some of the work the contractor performed for the casino-resort project.

U.S.A. Fanter is suing IPI for allegedly refusing to pay $2,089,345 for landscaping services at IPI's hotel-casino project. U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay $2.08 million in contract damages. The company also sought payment for interest and attorney's fees.

32.7% increase in Medicaid beneficiaries

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Medicaid Agency director Helen C. Sablan reports a 32.7% increase in Medicaid beneficiaries from February 2020 to July 10, 2020, and fears that the CNMI may lose millions of dollars in health care funding if the government fails to adequately fund the program.

Sablan informed Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, that they have been working hard to ensure that the program complies with the requirements of Title IX and will meet the expectations of the U.S. Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In her analysis and assessment of the Medicaid program that she submitted to the House of Representatives as it works on the agency's budget for fiscal year 2021, Sablan said that, with the House proposed budget of $2.71 million for the agency, compared to the $8.93 million allocated for territory matching, that means the CNMI Medicaid will be short by $6.21 million.

She said they do not believe that it is in the interest of the CNMI to lose millions of dollars in health care funding especially in an economic time when federal expenditures are one of the few sources of economic input into the economy.

She noted that there has been a substantial increase in Medicaid beneficiaries due to the furloughs and layoffs, resulting from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She said the funding her agency asked for is required to make reasonable and appropriate progress to administer the program and submit data and reports to the federal government.

"We are hopeful that the CNMI policymakers agree and in funding the Medicaid program," the director said.

Sablan said the proposed House budget provides a total of $2.52 million for the Medical Assistance Program and Enhanced Allotment Plan of Medicaid, and $187,400 for the administration of the Medicaid program.

She said as a federal-state/territory program, the administration costs are set in Title XIX to be 50-50% for program administration.

Sablan said absolutely no funds were provided from the proposed FY 2021 House budget for utilities, office supplies, or any other operational expenses that would be funded at 50-50%.

The director noted two significant consequences that result from the budget shortfall.

First, the failure to fund the program would result in a loss of millions of dollars in health care funding that cannot be spent because of the lack of a territory match, she said.

Second, the director said, both the private providers and clinics of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will not be paid for the "fee for services" or pharmaceuticals patients' needs without the territory match until the next fiscal year.

PANDEMIC

From Page 1

"Nothing. Nobody is on that large square" at the heart of one of Europe's most picturesque cities, he said.

Six months later, as Europe's leanest tourist summer season in recent history is starting to draw to a close, COVID-19 is yet to loosen its suffocating grip on the continent.

If anything the pandemic might tighten it over the coming months, with losses piling up in the tens of billions of euros across the 27-nation European Union, and the continent's vaunted government support and social security system under increasing strain to prop up the sector.

The upheaval so far, the bloc's executive European Commission said, shows that "revenue losses during the first half of 2020 for hotels, restaurants, tour operators, long distance train operators and airlines were roughly 85-90%." No country has been exempt in an area spanning from Greece's beaches to the trattorias in Rome and the museums of Paris.

And even now, the European Commission told The Associated Press, "bookings for September and October remain abnormally low," as dire as 10% of capacity in Bruges. It dents hopes that a brief uptick in business in July would be a harbinger of something more permanent.

Over the summer, though, came fresh spikes in COVID-19 contamination, especially in Spain and France, new restrictive measures and regional color codes that spelled disaster for local tourism when they turn red.

It left the European tourism industry relying on hope more than anything else. That was evident on a late summer's day in Bruges, when usually throngs of American, Asian and European tourists stroll along the cobblestone streets below the city's gabled houses, bringing annual visits to over 8 million in the city of 110,000.

"The swans have it all to themselves," muttered Michiel Michielsens as he slowed his boat behind a bank of swans on a city canal. On a normal day—not like the one when he had 114 customers instead of 1,200—tourists instead of birds would rule the waters. Now a boat could be seen showing a single couple around instead of its normal load of 40 people.

GUAM

From Page 1

an, a 36-year-old woman, and a 74-year-old man—followed by a death each on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This raises Guam's total fatalities to 18, most of them with underlying health issues or with comorbidities, which means they had two or more chronic diseases.

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, the 17th and 18th fatalities were both known COVID-19 cases. The 31-year-old female was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 8:46am yesterday. JIC stated that she had underlying health conditions, and is the island's youngest COVID-19-related death to date, after the 36-year-old woman who passed away last Sept. 1.

Another patient—a 65-year-old male who had comorbidities and was admitted to the Guam Memorial Hospital last Sept. 3 after testing positive for COVID-19—passed away yesterday at approximately 10:09am.

Guam's Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero stated that it's never easy losing a member of the community to this horrendous virus, and stresses that the island cannot afford to lose more people. She said that everyone must do their part to not only protect themselves, but protect their loved ones, especially those with medical conditions that can complicate their status if infected by COVID-19.

"My heart breaks every time I receive these calls. [First gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I send their family and friends our condolences and deepest sympathies," said Leon Guerrero.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres cited Guam's experience in saying at his regular radio briefing last Sept. 4 that much about the virus and how to successfully combat it remains uncertain. He pointed at the CNMI's latest case, when a sailor who is a part of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, also known as Seabees, tested positive last Sept. 2, despite undergoing quarantine procedures before being deployed to Tinian.

Torres said the Seabees sailors were quarantined for the mandatory 14 days. However, once they reached Tinian, one of the sailors tested positive for COVID-19. He added that there are also news reports that 20% of front liners, specifically nurses and physicians, get infected.

When nurses and physicians get infected, the health care system becomes compromised, Torres said, because most of the time they are asymptomatic, which means that they won't show symptoms until it's too late. The virus can easily spread just by a cough, a handshake, a hug, and any physical touch.

"I want to again remind everyone that we continue to fight COVID-19, this pandemic, together and not against each other," said Torres.

To date, Guam has a total of 1,671 confirmed cases, 18 deaths, 744 not in isolation, and 912 cases in active isolation. Of those cases, 1,386 are classified as civilians and 233 are military service members.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 178

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The US has to get serious about wildfires

California's wildfire season is off to a brutal start. Through August, this year already ranks as the second most destructive in the state's history, with more than 1.6 million acres burned. Sparked by lightning strikes and record heat, fires in Northern California have destroyed thousands of structures, wrecked air quality in the San Francisco Bay Area and carried smoke plumes as far away as Nebraska. With hot, dry weather likely to persist until November, the worst may be yet to come.

Looking farther ahead, the picture does not improve. As climate change worsens, wildfires are growing in number, scale and duration across the American West, overwhelming local firefighting capacities and putting property and lives in peril. Since 2017, fires have consumed more than 20 million acres of land and caused at least $50 billion in economic losses. The U.S. needs a coherent national strategy to address the threat.

New resources, including extra staff, are essential if fires are to be fought more effectively. But prevention matters as well. Addressing climate change is vital, but other kinds of mitigation are possible too. These could do a lot for little or no net outlay—$1 spent on fire prevention is estimated to save $3 in costs—and deserve to be taken much more seriously.

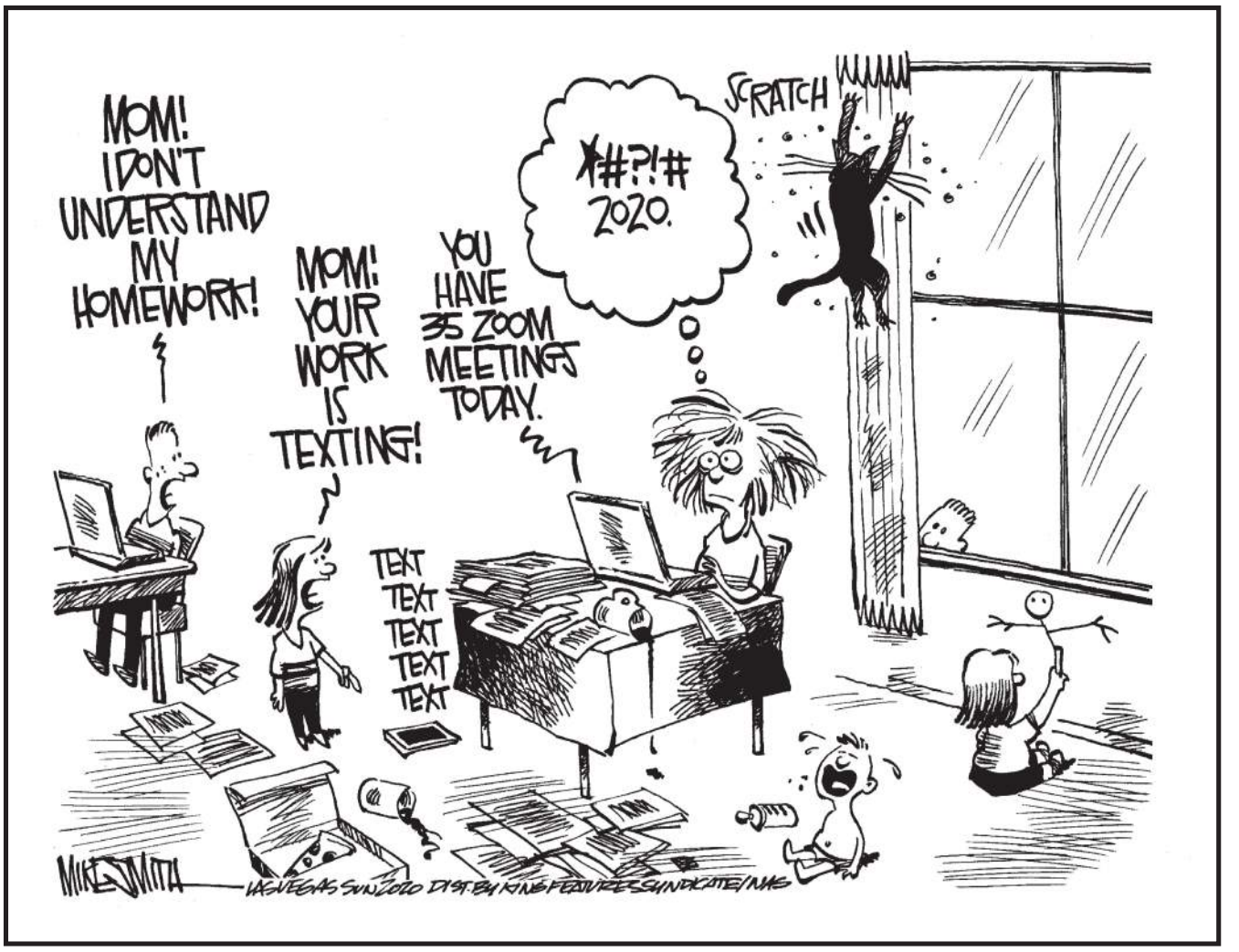
The first task is bolstering the supply of trained firefighters. In January, California Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a $120 million initiative to hire more than 650 new staff, including more than 400 front-line firefighters, over the next five years at Cal Fire, the state's firefighting agency. Due to the financial strain caused by the coronavirus, that funding was cut by one-third in the budget Newsom eventually signed. Firefighting teams are also getting less help from volunteer prison inmates, thousands of whom typically work as firefighters, but whose numbers have been reduced to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons.

To meet staffing needs, Western states like California should offer bonuses for seasonal firefighters and offer full-time employment for those who serve on the front lines. Former prisoners who've received firefighting training while incarcerated should be allowed to apply for full-time jobs after they serve their time. The federal government, which owns and manages 30% of the country's forest lands, should work with states to fill existing federal firefighter vacancies.

Much of the billions of dollars the federal government spends on anti-wildfire measures goes toward fighting fires after they break out. A smarter approach would spend more on forest management, by conducting controlled burns and clearing vegetation during the off-season. Over the longer term, a corps of skilled workers could help state and local authorities strengthen fire resilience and restore healthy forest ecosystems.

At a time of trillion-dollar deficits, spending more on wildfire mitigation may seem like a tall order. It shouldn't be, for the simple reason that the costs of inaction are greater.

(c) 2020 *Bloomberg News*


MOM! I DON'T UNDERSTAND MY HOMEWORK!
MOM! YOUR WORK IS TEXTING!
YOU HAVE 35 ZOOM MEETINGS TODAY.
X#?!# 2020.
SCRATCH
TEXT TEXT TEXT TEXT TEXT
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2020 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NMS

Can you be sued over a bad online review?

FINE PRINT
By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

These days it's common for a consumer to leave an online review of products and services that they use. This process works well if they post a five-star review following a wonderful dinner. But what if their soup was cold, the steak burnt and the waiter rude? If they leave a 1-star review, could doing so boil over into a legal battle?

Sometimes. For example, in 2019 a Florida man paid over $25,000 in legal bills to defend a Yelp review against a veterinary practice. In that case, the review said was that the poster's dog died because the surgeon never showed. Or consider a 2018 review on TripAdvisor in which a man gave a Missouri tourist attraction an underwhelming three-star review. The tourist attraction responded with a lawsuit demanding $25,000. Meanwhile, in 2015 a Colorado couple posted a negative Yelp review of a flooring company, and then spent over $60,000 defending against a defamation lawsuit.

Why have online reviews become grist for lawsuits? Because businesses—and small businesses in particular—rely on word of mouth to generate customers. Indeed, more than 80% of Americans check out online reviews before patronizing a local business.

Given those numbers, businesses have good reason to maintain excellent online reputations. In many cases, that means pushing back when they think the review is unfair or unwarranted. But in a few cases, it means acting like a bully to silence critics who can't or won't spend thousands of dollars fighting over a review.

Now let's talk about when an online review is legal and when it's not. Online reviews are governed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Many states also provide extra protections through statutes known as anti-SLAPP laws. Under these laws, consumers can post unhappy reviews of products, services, and experiences as long as the review is truthful. If not, the business has grounds for filing a defamation lawsuit.

So, what kind of reviews will resist a defamation suit and which ones will encourage one?

Generally, honest opinions are safe. Take, for example, "I wasn't happy about the service" or "The staff was rude." In each case, the business won't like it, but opinions are seldom defamatory.

On the other hand, factual assertions open the door to trouble—usually because the facts are wrong, cherry-picked to present a misleading picture, or not backed with evidence. For example, make sure you are right before posting something like: "The company isn't licensed to provide their services" or "The company didn't return my money even though they have a money-back guarantee." And, even if you are right, be prepared to provide receipts, emails, and other evidence to support the review.

What about the online platforms that host the review: Can they be sued too? No. Under the U.S. Communications Decency Act, websites—including Yelp, Angie's Lists, and other consumer-review sites—are not liable for publishing content written by a third party.

All of that said, most negative online reviews won't lead to a lawsuit. After all, lawsuits are expensive—and even if the business wins, there's no guarantee that it can collect against the reviewer. Unsurprisingly then, businesses frequently choose other avenues for dealing with negative reviews. The first option is to ask the website to take down the comment if it's factually inaccurate. In those cases, the website has no duty to remove the comment but often will. The second option is to post a gracious response to the review that addresses the issue and offers a solution. And the final option is to neutralize the negative review in a sea of positive reviews. For instance, the business may encourage happy customers to post reviews.

To sum up: If you've had a bad experience with a business, and you want to post a review, don't just write whatever pops into your head. Stick to your opinion and state the facts fairly. In doing so, avoid embellishment and generalizations, and have evidence for any facts mentioned in the review.

Meanwhile, if you are a business lampooned by a defamatory review, first check if the website will take it down. If not, consider whether it would be more cost-effective to inoculate the review with a gracious response or to bury it under a deluge of positive comments from happy customers. If not, and the comment is truly harmful to your bottom line, then consider speaking with a lawyer.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What is antifa? Mostly a myth

By JOSEPH HAYDEN
Tribune News Service

Joseph Hayden, a professor of journalism at the University of Memphis, is writing a book on the recent history of fake news in America. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

As I'm sitting in a doctor's waiting room in Memphis, Tennessee, a television set hanging from the ceiling plays a Fox News program whose host warns of "antifa" heading to a town near me.

But what exactly is antifa? I'm a news junkie, and I barely have a clue.

The word stands for anti-fascist, and it appears to have originated in Germany in the 1930s and then resurfaced again in the 1970s. With the election of President Donald Trump in 2016, small organizations with that name have cropped up in a few American cities. But, for the most part, labeling protesters as members of "antifa" _ or, as Trump likes to say, "professional anarchists" _ is often either a red herring or a false flag operation used to frighten gullible citizens.

In early June, for example, a fake Twitter account pretending to be from "antifa" called for violence. It turned out to be a scam orchestrated by white nationalists.

"Antifa," as a code word used to rile up fear and paranoia, has been lobbed especially at Black Lives Matter activists. Trump and Attorney General William Barr have repeatedly said that demonstrators leading the protests for racial justice are antifa, even though independent analyses of federal arrests of protesters by National Public Radio and The New York Times don't actually show anyone with these connections.

Trump and Fox News are tireless promoters of such scare tactics. On Monday, when the president was interviewed by Fox host Laura Ingraham, he suggested that Democratic nominee Joe Biden's campaign was being run by a secret cabal of "people you've never heard about, people that are in the dark shadows." These menacing insinuations mirror the way the term antifa is used in right-wing media _ not with precision or even sincerity, but as an incantation or curse. And they are obsessed with it.

Indeed, Fox News might as well change its name to the Antifa Network, because over the past few years, according to a Lexis-Nexis search conducted in early August, it's broadcast the word 520 times, versus just 24 for CBS, 37 for ABC and 66 for MSNBC. In one July 2019 episode of Laura Ingraham's program alone, she or her guests said the word 59 times.

As the presidential election in November draws near, it's clear that conservatives are using the myth of antifa to pander to their base. But is it working?

To some extent, yes. According to a Rasmussen poll in June, almost half of respondents say antifa should be considered a terrorist organization, even though most of them probably couldn't tell you what it is, stands for, or wants.

Victor Klemperer, a Jewish professor of French literature who survived the Nazi regime, wrote in his book "The Language of the Third Reich" that "a foreign word impresses all the more the less it is understood."

Perhaps that explains the strange buoyancy of "antifa" in right-wing media outlets. But whatever the reason may be for its popularity, the purpose is clear.

"Political language," as George Orwell wrote in 1946, "is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

In most of the country, antifa is mostly wind. And its hot-air blowers are the kind of demagogues that history knows all too well.

With high-tech farming, we can usher in a rural renaissance

By PAUL SCHICKLER AND JOHN AUSTIN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The coronavirus pandemic has upended so much. It has exposed the fragility of our food supply and made us revalue domestic agriculture and producers, including the front-line workers who harvest, make and deliver our food. But we're now reworking our supply chains for national food security and elevating agriculture back to a noble profession.

With a new focus on these issues, can we use this moment to rebuild and rebrand rural America?

In today's wired, knowledge-driven economy, talented people are making new choices about where to live and work. Many heartland communities possess attractive attributes, such as a "know-your-neighbors" sensibility, good schools and open spaces, undergirded by a comfortable cost and pace of living. As folks place health and safety at the fore, the opportunities to be part of the rural renaissance abound.

Rural America already plays a sophisticated global game—delivering the nation's prodigious agricultural output (valued at $3 trillion annually) with $140 billion headed to foreign markets. But the Midwest is more than the world's breadbasket—it is an innovation center as well.

Today, shifting consumer preferences and market dynamics are creating new opportunities for ag and food tech. New entrants are growing hyperlocal, farm-to-table experiences, and foodies of all socioeconomic statuses are gaining access to food that aligns to their tastes and values.

Ag and food tech entrepreneurs are developing and using innovations to produce nutritious food while protecting natural resources. For example, cloud-based irrigation software can boost crop yields and save water and energy by connecting to in-field sensors to deliver the correct amount of water to each plant.

Another startup is working to end the annual U.S. waste of 20 billion pounds of "ugly" produce with a business-to-business marketplace that allows growers to connect with food companies to offload surplus or imperfect food.

According to Finistere Ventures, $25 billion has been invested into the ag-food sector since 2012, as entrepreneurs bring additional health, environmental and consumer benefits to the marketplace.

A lot of this work is being driven by young leaders. As fifth-generation farmer and co-founder of Clear Frontier Ag Management in Omaha, Nebraska, Justin Bruch says: "It is satisfying to develop new technology to help ... leave the farming breadbasket in better shape for future generations."

Innovation starts with education, including programs like Iowa State University's "Science Bound," which inspires young minority students to pursue STEM-based careers in food. Michigan State research is pioneering urban food systems and sustainable global agricultural practices. The World Food Prize hosts youth institutes to engage students and educators to solve global food security issues.

Rural America is producing solutions to the big challenges of today, from climate change to clean water to nutrition. With the support of higher education and venture capital, along with consumer demand, opportunities to create high-tech lifestyles beyond Silicon Valley—while having a meaningful impact on the world—have rarely been more promising.

To achieve this vision, we welcome next-generation innovators to the heartland, where there is important work to do and wonderful places to do it. We hope the young people growing up in small towns will stick around and help solve today's global challenges from home. And that those with capital looking to invest in a brighter, more resilient future will turn to rural America to get good returns and make a huge social impact.

Paul Schickler is former president of DuPont Pioneer (now Corteva) and founder of III Ag. John Austin directs the Michigan Economic Center and is a nonresident senior fellow with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Brookings Institution.

The Trump GOP isn't all that different

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Donald Trump took over the Republican Party, but it's still discernibly the Republican Party.

The Republican National Convention was obviously very Trumpy. At least one member of the family had a slot every night, and it featured theatrical touches worthy of reality TV.

There also are notable differences of substance. Trump's party has reversed itself on trade and jettisoned concern over deficit spending. The party is much less hawkish than George W. Bush's GOP and much more skeptical of immigration than Ronald Reagan's. It doesn't have the focus of the 2004 Republican convention on terrorism or the 2012 Republican convention on out-of-control entitlement spending.

And yet there is a clear throughline between today's Republican Party and the GOP of the past several decades. Someone transported from the floor of a Republican convention in the 1980s, 1990s or 2000s to the Mellon Auditorium would unquestionably have known where he or she was.

Take Don Trump Jr.'s forceful speech, which by lineage and inclination should be most representative of the Trump GOP.

Sure enough, on trade and immigration, Trump Jr. hit distinctively Trumpian notes. But much of what he said echoed high-profile speakers at past Republican conventions.

Trump Jr. argued that "Biden's radical left-wing policies would stop our economic recovery cold," in part by raising taxes.

This contrast with Democrats is a GOP commonplace. The keynoter at the 1984 convention during the high tide of Reaganism, Katherine Davalos Ortega, then treasurer of the United States, hit Democratic nominee Walter Mondale for his long record "based on the idea of high taxes, big spending and more government regulations."

Trump Jr. called the former vice president "Beijing Biden" and said he's "weak on China."

Harsh? Yes. But name-calling aside, Republicans have been hitting Democrats as weak for decades.

In his acceptance speech as vice president in 1984, George H.W. Bush referred to the "Carter-Mondale era of vacillation, of weakness, of lecturing to our friends and letting them down."

At the 2004 convention, Democratic Sen. Zell Miller scorned John Kerry as "more wrong, more weak and more wobbly than any other national figure."

Trump Jr. declared that "in the past, both parties believed in the goodness of America. We agreed on where we wanted to go. We just disagreed about how to get there. This time, the other party is attacking the very principles on which our nation was founded."

In her famous 1984 foreign policy speech, Jeane Kirkpatrick hit a similar note, saying that Democrats once "were not afraid to be resolute, nor ashamed to speak of America as a great nation."

Republicans have long promoted national pride and national strength, or as Trump Jr. put it, "this land of promise and opportunity—of heroes ... and greatness." In 2012, Chris Christie ended his keynote speech by declaring, "together, we stand up for American greatness."

This perspective sheds some light on the future of a post-Trump GOP. In the main, it's not likely to be radically different from the current one. As Michael Barone argued in The Wall Street Journal, America's political parties are great institutions that change gradually, while preserving an identifiable DNA.

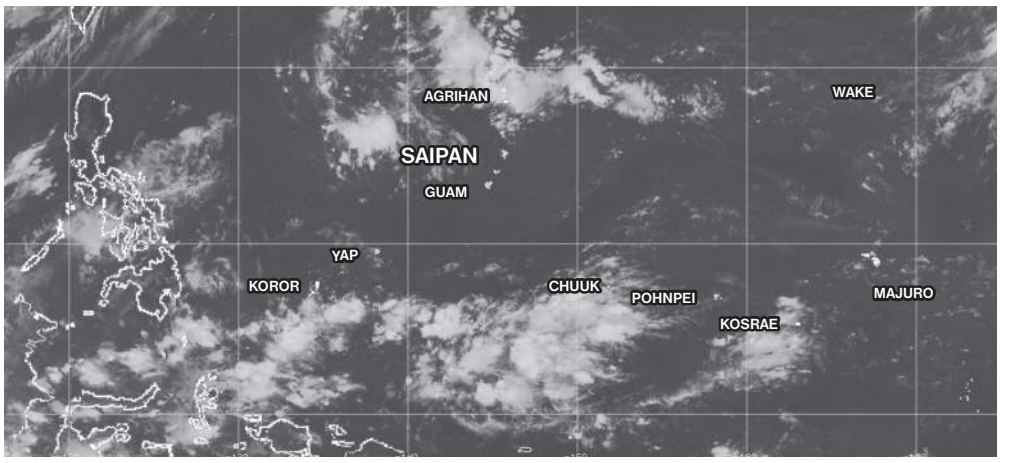
If the convention again demonstrated Trump's personal grip on the party, it also showed that the Republican Party as it has existed for decades isn't going away.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms for Guam, isolated showers and thunderstorms for the Northern Marianas.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:46 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Showers and thunderstorms have spread south early this morning, resulting in scattered showers moving into Rota waters. An outflow boundary from the convection over Rota waters is moving into Guam and will produce scattered showers through the later morning hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA

		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:35 AM	10:21 PM
Wednesday	-	11:24 AM	11:03 PM
Thursday	-	12:16 PM	11:49 PM
Friday	-	1:09 PM	6:28 AM
Saturday	12:39 AM	2:04 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE

		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	55° / 46°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Rain	63° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 37°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°
New York	Mostly Sunny	75° / 58°
Osaka	Sunny	88° / 68°
Paris	Showers	68° / 54°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Salem	Sunny	84° / 61°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Tokyo	Sunny	82° / 66°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	76° / 56°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

5:22 AM	LOW TIDE	0.50
11:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.61
5:30 PM	LOW TIDE	0.99
11:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.69

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

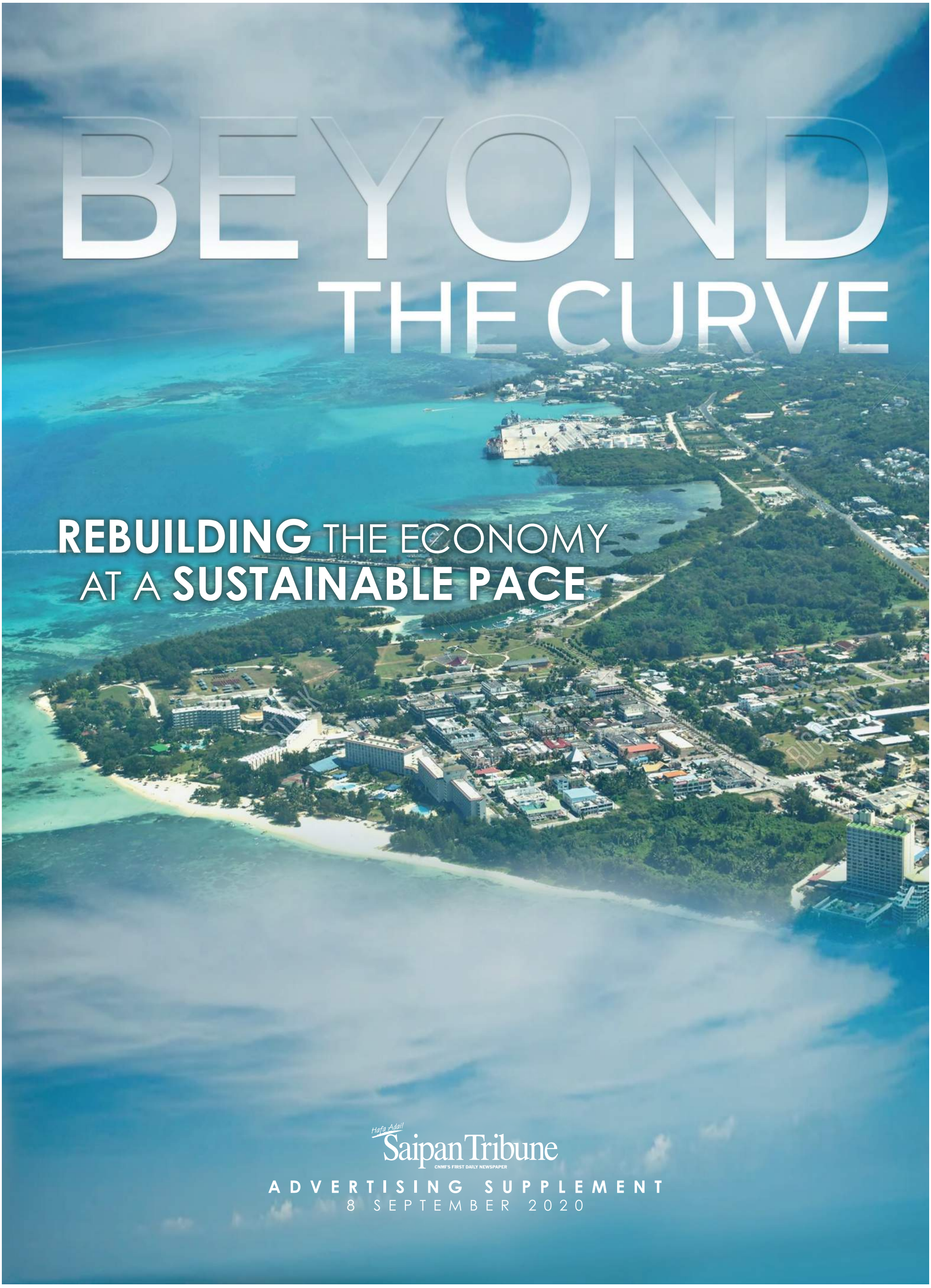
CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

BEYOND THE CURVE

REBUILDING THE ECONOMY AT A SUSTAINABLE PACE



Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT
8 SEPTEMBER 2020

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

For your convenience, Joeten launches 'Easy Grocery'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joeten teams up with Eats Easy to create the "Easy Grocery," a unique service that makes grocery shopping convenient and an enjoyable experience.

Four years ago, soon after having a health issue that made walking and carrying heavy loads very difficult, Rick suggested to the grocery store where he regularly shops to create an online portal where customers can buy grocery items using an app on their phone, pay for the items using their debit or credit card, and have someone at the store deliver the items to his home. And he was willing to pay a premium for that convenience. Who would have thought that a global pandemic would accelerate that idea into reality?

Last week, Joeten launched its "Easy Grocery," a unique service that will make grocery shopping convenient and an enjoyable experience. You don't have to stress going out of the house to get food and household items you need because, with Joeten Easy Grocery, it would seem like you have partner or assistant in meeting your family's grocery needs.

According to Gederryn R. Domingo, marketing manager/buyer at J.C Tenorio Enterprises, Joeten "Easy Grocery' is a collaboration with Eats Easy, an app that manages fast and efficient food delivery on Saipan. "Now they also have grocery delivery from Joeten. …[The] Eats Easy app has existed since February this year and, being the first GPS mobile app on Saipan, Joeten recognized how beneficial this could be for shopping centers/supermarkets," she said.

"The idea was inspired by Eats Easy's purpose to serve our island hassle-free food that's delivered right to your door. …We approached the Eats Easy team in March and, after numerous meetings, discussions, trial runs here and there, a couple months later we launched Easy Grocery," she added.

Domingo said that grocery delivery has been popular and successful in the U.S. mainland for many years now. She said the concept was already in the works even before COVID-19 but the impetus to create online shopping became more urgent due to the pandemic. "We all are familiar with Walmart, a retail corporation that offers grocery delivery in the U.S. mainland. We thought that it would be better to present and expand grocery delivery service to our community," she said. "Trying to find time, especially on a busy schedule, to make dinner is one thing, but to find time to go to the grocery store is

See JOETEN on Page 16

Surviving the COVID-19 pandemic as a business

BEA CABRERA

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios speaks at the town hall meeting held last month that provided a platform for business leaders and owners to vent out challenges, fears and hope .

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

When news broke that the CNMI's COVID-19 Emergency Directives would be amended, many restaurant businesses were fearful that the new directives may include taking away dine-in services that could shut businesses down. It was, therefore, with a sigh of relief for many businesses when the amendments involved only new curfew and business hours, remote learning for schools, limited gathering for people, and restricted building occupancy. With this, local businesses pressed ahead with providing services to the community and jobs to their employees, while encouraging the continued practice of health and safety protocols.

According to Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios, the Chamber has not heard any negative feedback from businesses regarding the new COVID-19 requirements. "The main change was the curfew and in general businesses are complying with the COVID-19 Task Force requirements to reopen and to ensure the safety of their employees and customers," she said.

Many restaurants and customers are happy that the new regulations did not take away dine-in operations. "We agree this a good thing, as many restaurants have been working on complying with the COVID-19 requirements to offer dine-in services. The more businesses open, it will be good for our economy," Palacios said.

"This is also a start to provide some level of confidence to our community members that businesses are following safety protocols and, if businesses do not follow the safety protocols, their operations will be shut down by the enforcement agencies," Palacios added.

Although the future still remains uncertain, CNMI businesses have welcomed the move to reopen after several months of zero business activity. "No one knows what next week or even next month will bring. In our small business forum, some businesses mentioned they were thriving; others are still struggling. Businesses are taking

See COVID-19 on Page 16

STAY CONNECTED AND STAY SAFE!
Express Financial is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs. Helping you succeed financially and safely is our top priority.
Visit myexpressfinancial.com to apply for a loan, make a payment or to learn more about us!
EXPRESS FINANCIAL
DEDEDO
Calvo Commercial Center, 600 Harmon Loop Road Ste 107 | Tel #: (671) 637-9834
SAIPAN
Town House Shopping Center Beach Road Chalan Kanoa | Tel #: (670)-235-6032
Go Online: myexpressfinancial.com

McDonald's
HAPPY MEAL
*Hamburger or 4pc Chicken McNuggets
Order in the App, pass the line with a tap
Three easy steps to order through the McDonald's App
Download the McDonald's App
GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store
MOBILE ORDER & PAY
Order on your time
Use our App to pick out your favorite McDonald's items a la carte or make a meal.
Pay
Pay using any major payment card. Your card will not be charged until you check in.
Pick up on your terms
Check in at any participating McDonald's restaurant to pick up your meal however you want—get your food brought to you Curbside, avoid the line Inside the Restaurant or grab it in the Drive Thru.
STORE HOURS: MIDDLE ROAD STORE - 6:00AM TO 9:00PM DAILY • GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:00AM TO 8:30PM DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Miss Earth NMI 2020 candidates are ready for the virtual pageant that's going to be held on Sept. 19, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan from 4pm to 6pm.

Miss Earth

Northern Marianas pageant goes virtual

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited Miss Earth Northern Marianas Pageant 2020 will push through this year, with organizers breaking norms and traditions in this new normal by proceeding with the pageant virtually.

The Miss Earth 2020 Northern Marianas pageant will be on Sept. 19, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan from 4pm to 6pm. The international pageant itself will start on Sept. 21, 2020, and the finals will be on Nov. 29, 2020—all done virtually.

Dee Clayton, president of Exquisite Productions that organizes the Miss Earth Northern Marianas, said the pursuit of strong environmental programs in the CNMI and around world remains important despite the pandemic. "It is important to address climate change as well as the pandemic. This is the time where we take responsibility to bring awareness to the environment and to also advocate and spread the word to have a safe community and be aware of our health," she added.

According to Clayton, the pandemic makes it difficult to organize a pageant even virtually. "This is due to the protocols that we have to follow but, as long as we take precautions, commit to the directives and restriction orders from our government leaders, I think we can still move forward with the pageant," she said.

Organizer will be using Facebook Livestream that will also capture the activities of each contestant and include the swimwear, evening wear, native costume and the question-and-answer portion. They will be prejudged and the finals will be at the coronation itself.

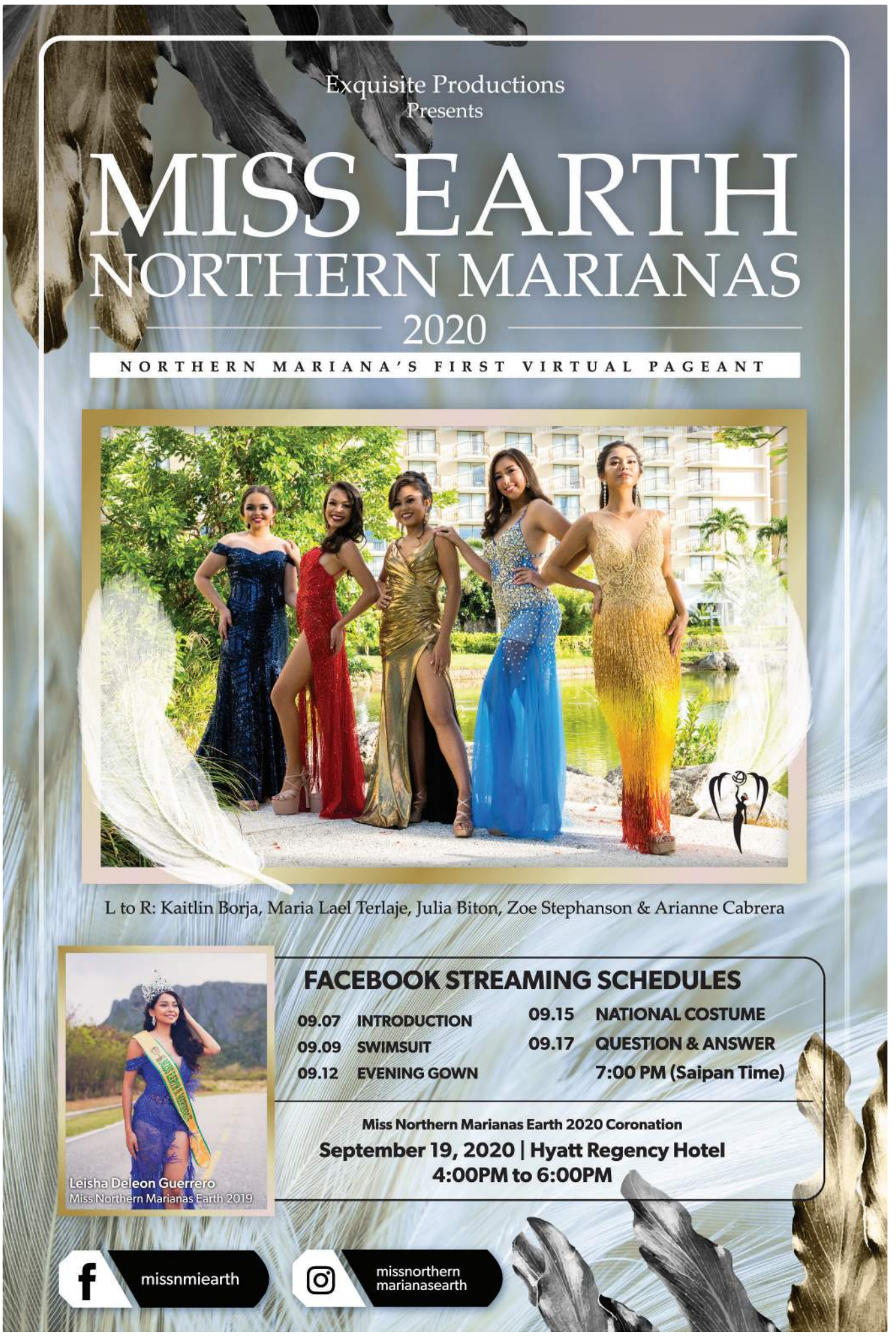
The current titleholder, 2019 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Leisha Deleon Guerrero, is a student at the Northern Marianas College. Among the projects that she has undertaken for environmental awareness and sustainability as Miss Earth Northern Marianas promotes the 5R Campaign, which intends to spread the idea of "Reduce. Reuse. Refuse. Respect. Rethink" as a lifestyle in the Marianas.

In an earlier interview, she said that it is her responsibility as Miss Earth NMI to lead the community and the youth to be part of this beneficial change within the islands. "The 5R campaign is a call for members of the community to reduce the amount of waste they generate, to reuse materials, to refuse excessive packaging, to respect the environment, and to rethink lifestyle choices."

"The Miss Earth NMI pageant and mission is one of the most relevant to date, considering we are in a global climate crisis. Miss Earth is also known for our motto, 'Beauties for a Cause,' and that's exactly what being Miss Earth NMI is all about," Deleon Guerrero added.

This year, seven young women will vie for the chance to represent the Marianas at the Miss Earth international pageant in December. They are Arianne Cabrera, Zoe Stephanson, Jessme Jones, Maria Terlaje, Jaybriana

See MS. EARTH on Page 16



FHB introduces 'Tap & Go' technology

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrersaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

First Hawaiian Bank has made using your FHB debit and credit cards easier, faster, and safer. FHB is the first financial institution in Hawaii to unveil its "Tap & Go" contactless debit and credit technology, which means you can settle your bill, check, or account without the card leaving your hand or touching the terminal, which is a huge plus during the pandemic.

According to FHB senior vice president and Card Services Division manager Gregg Hirano, this Tap & Go technology happened at a right time when people are starting to get comfortable with resuming their daily lives after confinement, quarantine, or lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and when economic flow is on the move again. "With consumers returning to their daily activities of shopping and dining, our new contactless payment cards offer our customers the ability to make their purchases quickly with their card never leaving their hand," he said. "Using the latest advances in digital, chip-enhanced technology, we're able to quickly respond to changing consumer preferences with cards that enhance convenience, speed, security and safety."

The new cards use near-field communication wireless connectivity and customers simply "tap" by hovering any FHB debit or credit card over the contactless symbol on merchant terminals to make a payment. Customers may need to enter a PIN number for transactions over $50. Hirano describes the process as another tool for customers' need for frictionless banking and shopping.

"These new contactless cards provide both customers and businesses a convenient, fast, and secure way to make everyday purchases at many point-of-sale terminals statewide. As Hawaii's local economy continues its reopening and small businesses look for ways to ensure success, contactless cards allow for a speedier checkout experience and increased customer loyalty," Hirano said. "For businesses like coffee shops, fast casual restaurants, and grocery stores, the elimination of hand-to-hand transactions enables faster transactions and a safer environment for employees. … Contactless cards can process transactions nearly 10 times faster than a regular chip-enabled card. Businesses can complete transactions more quickly, reducing the amount of time customers must wait in line to make a purchase."

Where security is concerned, FHB debit and credit card holders are assured of safe and secure transactions every time as FHB cars are embedded with multiple layers of security to protect FHB cardholders against fraud. "Transactions are secure since the card never leaves the hand of the customer and the built-in chip technology generates a unique code for each transaction, as it does with regular chip-enabled cards. For added security, Mastercard's Zero Liability still protects users from unauthorized transactions," Hirano said.

"Contactless 'Tap & Go' technology is a convenient alternative to cash and is already available for use anywhere that Apple Pay, Samsung Pay or Google Pay is accepted," Hirano added.

Contactless debit and credit cards distribution started on June 29, 2020. Other FHB digital alternatives such as Digital Home Loan portal for mortgages allows customers to go online, have easy access to details and manage their mortgage; and FHB Mobile Banking, which allows account holders to manage their account, deposit checks using their mobile device, pay bills and more.

For more information, visit fhb.com/contactless.

FHB.COM

New contactless cards.

Tap & Go® with the speed and ease of contactless technology.
Learn more at fhb.com/contactless.

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559

The Contactless Symbol is a trademark owned by and used with permission of EMVCo, LLC.
Tap & Go® is a registered trademark of Mastercard, Inc.

Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Moving forward together

Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

As we go through these **challenging times** again, let us be reminded how the **CNMI**, as **one community**, manages to **weather every storm** that comes our way — by **working together**, **giving each other** a **helping hand**.

HONDA

WE'LL EXTEND YOUR WARRANTY

Rest assured, **if you are unable to get to your dealership during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order** and your warranty expires during that time, **we will extend your warranty by 4 months or 2,500 miles** once the stay-at-home order is lifted.

We'll get through this together.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON - FRI 8AM - 6PM • SAT 8AM - 12NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • See dealer for details. While Supplies last.

BEA CABRERA

Shirley's Coffee shop have allotted one to two curbside pick-up slots in all of their branches to cater to customers who don't want to get out of their cars.

Novel ways of doing business

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Since March, CNMI businesses and establishments have been squeezing their creative juices to find viable alternatives to meet their customers' needs in ways that are safe for both customers and employees and the good news is it is working.

Curbside pick-up

Curbside pick-up allows a customer to phone in an order and pick it up without having to get out the car because the order is brought to one's car by a server.

At the reopening of Bubba Gump last July, Robert H. Jones, chairman and CEO of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. said that the new trend now is not dine-in but drive-thru and pick-up services. "This is something that is being

See NOVEL on Page 16

Let your imagination soar at Aqua Resort Club Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The pandemic may have put a stop to many things in your life, delayed some plans, and maybe made you change your priorities but it should not mean a life monotonous, black-and-white life. Despite the challenges, many refreshing and enjoyable breaks awaits you at Aqua Resort Club.

Romantic staycation

Treat your special someone to a one-night stay at Aqua's Resort Club with a deluxe garden view room, paired with a romantic dinner for two at Kevin's Prime Rib and Seafood where you can choose from their four-course menus and enjoy a glass of sparkling wine as a welcome drink.

Other treats include early check-in at 10am, late check-out at 5pm and a 10% discount on Couple's Massages at the ARC Spa. Get this special package for only $180 (exclusive of tax).

Call (670) 322-1234 for more information.

For only $290 (exclusive of tax) relax in the lullaby that ocean waves sing to you and your special someone at their oceanfront suite that also includes a romantic dinner for two at Kevin's Prime Rib and Seafood. You are also allowed early check-in at 10am, late check-out at 5pm and a 10% discount off on Couple's Massages at ARC Spa. Call (670) 322-1234 for more information.

Get a pool pass

Avail of pool passes for only $15 for adults, which includes a $5 gift voucher at the ARC Café and only $10 for children 2 to 11 years old from Friday to Sunday 10am to 7pm. Reservations are required. Call (670) 322-1234 for more information.

Sweet cravings

Enjoy delicious and freshly baked desserts from ARC Café like Cookie Cream Puffs and Mochi Donuts to enjoy right away or take home. Cookie Cream puffs cost only $3 each or two for $5. These delectable treats are also available in boxes: a box of six is only $15 and a box of 12 is only $30. Advance order is required.

Crisp on the outside and mochi mushy on the inside, Mochi Donuts go for only $2 apiece. An assorted box of six that includes chocolate, strawberry, matcha, sugar, coffee caramel and honey lemon goes for only $9 and assorted box of 12 that includes *ube* (purple yam], cookies & cream, mint chocolate, Earl Gray tTea, chocolate, strawberry, matcha, honey lemon, coffee caramel, powdered sugar and cinnamon sugar goes for only $18. Available from Friday to Sunday and ad-

See AQUA on Page 17

Romantic Staycation SPECIAL PACKAGE

PACK YOUR WEEKEND BAG AND Treat Yourself TO A ROMANTIC Staycation AT AQUA RESORT CLUB

TREAT YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE
Deluxe Garden View

1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Free Upgrade to our Oceanview Room (Upon Availability)
Romantic Dinner for Two at Kevin's
Choose from our 4 Course Set Menus
Enjoy complimentary welcome glass of Sparkling Wine
Complimentary Early Check-In @ 10:00am
Complimentary Late Check-Out @ 5:00pm
10% Off Couple's Massages at ARC Spa

Special Package! $180 Per Night +15% Tax

MAKE IT EXTRA SPECIAL
Oceanfront Suite

1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Romantic Dinner for Two at Kevin's
Choose from our 4 Course Set Menus
Enjoy complimentary welcome glass of Sparkling Wine
Complimentary Early Check-In @ 10:00am
Complimentary Late Check-Out @ 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
10% Off all ARC Café Items
10% Off Couple's Massages at ARC Spa

Special Package! $290 Per Night +15% Tax

For Reservations & More Information
Please call us at (670)322-1234

ARC AQUA RESORT CLUB Saipan

*Special Rate valid for stay duration within September 7-30, 2020
*Reservations available on Friday and Saturday only
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions.
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rate

NOVEL

From Page 14

done in the United States now… and we have it as well. At Bubba Gump, just give us 15 to 20 minutes to prepare and we will serve it straight to your car," he said.

Brabu Pharmacy created a drive-thru option or "Express Tent" for people who don't want to go inside the store, especially the elderly. Shirley's Coffee Shop, Loco & Taco, Sura Restaurant Saipan, and Surf Club also offer this alternative.

Drive-thru

Drive-thru service has become one of the most convenient and reliable means to get food.

Since the start of the pandemic, McDonald's has never stopped the operations of their drive-thru service, on top of their '"Mobile, Order and Pay" app, which has become a popular tool for people to skip the line while still getting their favorite McDonald's items without having to worry about their health and safety.

"This app was launched in 2016 but it proved to be an effective tool for our customers to order their favorite McDonald's items. …Through MOP, customers can avail of this, whether it is for take-out, drive-thru, dine-in, or curbside [pick-up]," said McDonald's vice president Joe Ayuyu Jr.

The BAB Korean Restaurant in Garapan reopened in May with a new drive-thru counter and is considered the first Korean restaurant on Saipan to offer this kind of service. With a good amount of food being served in cups, this makes service efficient, which is why ordering and waiting in line is not much of a hassle.

Buffets in a different style

Most restaurants have discontinued self-service buffets and salad bars in the CNMI but have come up with new ways to offer buffet-style dining that still ensure customer health and safety.

Last month Loria Restaurant of Kensington Hotel introduced their "A La Minute Buffet," one where customers are given an extensive menu from which customers can order whichever food they want for as often as they want, where the food will be served when asked, for a flat fee.

According to Kensington executive chef Lee Inok, he used his imagination to serve the community the right way while navigating through the pandemic. "A La Minute buffet is similar to buffet-style dining but, instead of getting food from different stations and getting food as often as you want, a la minute buffet means food is prepared and served to you at your table when you order it," he said.

The World Café of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan opened last week and, instead, of diners getting food from an array of dishes in different stations, diners are asked to point at the food displayed at each food station and the wait staff will serve it to them.

The Miyako Japanese restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Hotel offers lunch set menu. Dine-in customers pick the lunch menu they prefer and they can ask for the same items in the menu over and over again until they are satisfied

Delivery

Eats Easy is the CNMI's first food delivery app that aims to deliver hot and fresh meals straight to your doorstep. "The idea came about to cater to customers that have no means of transportation, busy professionals that don't have time to cook or go out, the *man'amko* [elderly population] , and [persons with disabilities]. Nowadays, Eats Easy's new mission is to deliver food to anyone who is hunkered down at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community," said Eats Easy president Clint Albert.

Eats Easy has also partnered with Joeten Corp. to make grocery shopping as easy as ordering the items on the Eats Easy app and having Eats Easy deliver your groceries to your home. Not only would this be convenient for the app's target audience but it would also be convenient for people who don't like lugging heavy grocery bags from their car to their home.

The Triple J SuperFresh and Truckload Store has also developed its own independent app, where shoppers can also do their grocery shopping from the comfort of their living room couch.

Maximizing skills

Naoki Oura was forced to temporarily close his karaoke bar and restaurant, Salty's, because of health and safety precautions. That was the impetus that pushed him to create a side hustle he calls Ura-Ya, where he offers Japanese street food like takoyaki balls and baby castella (Japanese sponge cake) that he sells on the space in front of Salty's in Garapan.

"With the current curfew in place, it is hard for businesses like mine to make it because karaoke is usually enjoyed past 10pm by friends and family. If it is a restaurant it is fine because people will be coming for dinner and drinks early. Putting up Ura-Ya and using my skills has given me a source of income during the pandemic," he said.

BEA CABRERA

A La Minute buffet style was officially introduced in the CNMI last month by Loria Restaurant of Kensington Hotel.

BEA CABRERA

BAB Korean Restaurant built a drive-thru service at the beginning of the pandemic and lockdown in the CNMI to better serve customers.

New business models

At this point, it is assumed that these new ways of dining and serving food is not going away once the COVID-19 pandemic dies down. These novel ways of obtaining one's food are predicted to become part and parcel of the restaurant business and will just be one more way for people to get food, whether through curbside pick-up or even grocery shopping. Anything that meets a need should become standard and a win for both customers and businesses.

COVID-19

From Page 9

it day by day, being flexible to our current situation," Palacios said. "Some who have reopened are still trying to decide how much of a business loss they can afford or whether they can continue to adapt to the changes. We hope businesses remain open, as once a business closes their doors, it is harder to reopen."

In the midst of so much job losses and people finding it harder and harder to put food on the table, the fate of so many businesses are in danger of becoming just background chatter. That's where the Saipan Chamber of Commerce stepped in, giving business leaders and owners a platform last month in a special town hall meeting to share their concerns, fears and the challenges they face of operating during a pandemic. They were heard by a panel from the government and business sector led by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Many of the concerns include more cutbacks or total closure of business operations due to CW-1 "touchback" requirement (which would require some foreign workers to exit the CNMI for 30 days before being given a new work contract), streamlining the government's permitting processes, reducing permit fees that have recently gone up with no clear notice to business owners, and for the government to finally open the cannabis industry.

Others include initiating a campaign that bears positive messaging about the CNMI both within and outside, food security, encouraging and supporting business-to-business deals, and more regular meetings with small businesses to make sure they are always heard.

"We have shared some of our recommendations with our government leaders. We continue to comment on any proposed legislations which affect the business community. We hope our government leaders take our input," Palacios said.

MS. EARTH

From Page 10

Manalo, Kaitlin Borja, and Tawnie Ngeskebei.

Clayton said that putting up a virtual pageant has its own unique challenges. "It was very hard because, while we are preparing and setting the date, new directive orders will come out and then we have to maneuver the plans and change it. We also have to follow the guidelines, which includes social distancing, wearing of masks and washing your hands so those things make it a challenge with this preparation. But we are ready to overcome. …The whole world as well as the Marianas are going through a tough time at the moment. There is a lot of uncertainty with this new norm but I believe that people in other parts of the world and our community are very supportive of the environmental leaders that will inspire and encourage future generation," Dee added.

JOETEN

From Page 8

another. We can all agree that shopping online has never been much easier with 'Easy Grocery' and the community will appreciate that there is no minimum purchase to avail of this delivery service."

To avail of this service, just download the Eats Easy app on your phone. Once installed, click on the "Joeten Shopping Center" icon and choose which branch you want to order from (Susupe, Garapan, Dandan, or Kagman). Scroll through the categories provided or use the search box and type in a keyword of the product, click on the add-to-cart button, indicate quantity, and check out.

"Payment methods upon checkout varies—from cash on delivery, credit card, to Paypal. Once you have completed your order, an Eats Easy customer service representative will contact you, set your delivery time and you are pretty much all set. …Eats Easy has a standard fee of $5 and they can deliver anywhere on island," Domingo said.

"The mobile app makes you feel at ease and is quick and reliable. From the comfort of your home, your office or wherever you may be, simply pull out your phone, laptop, iPad or whatever device you are using, open the app, scroll, and add to cart. Other advantages of the mobile app include the convenience, it lightens your paper trail, you spend less time walking up and down aisles or waiting in counters, and overall time saving," she added.

Orders are received from Monday to Saturday and the delivery schedule is from 1:30pm to 5:30pm. Currently, most grocery items are available on the app, including household essentials, cleaning supplies, personal care products and others. "However, not every single item that can be found at our store locations are listed on the mobile app, such as frozen and produce, but we will continue to add more items and more as we go along," she added.

College life in the time of the pandemic

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrersasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The new school year is about to start and the new normal for students in the CNMI is "remote learning," which basically means online classes. Besides the lack of that warm in-person exchange with one's teachers and schoolmates, there is also the stuttering video, the lag in internet connection, that sound that keeps dropping from time to time, the unnatural sound of dogs barking in the background, and even the sight of one's teachers in sweatpants.

It's twice the challenge for college students who are also holding jobs like Sam Santos, Justine Nauta, Tovia To'Omata and You Sun Lee, where thy have to learn to balance the many hats they wear but not letting the pandemic get in the way of their career plans.

For **Sam Santos,** who is pursuing his bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation and Human Services as a junior at the Northern Marianas College while working as a teacher aide at Marinas High School's Special Education Department, "there's a lot of thrill" in starting school again—thrill despite countless uncertainties.

"During the course of the islandwide lockdown, NMC was prepared to transition to virtual instruction, so this isn't so strange to me," he said. "However, my thoughts do go out to those who encounter the 'technology barrier' due to a lack of access, not to mention with public school aiming to start [this] month, we're not exactly set in stone with regards to providing services for special education. There will be a lot of trial and errors."

Santos learns better in a physical classroom setting but remains positive about exploring remote learning more. "I've been taking online classes since I was a sophomore in high school. …It's a lot of personal discipline in order to get out of any mental rut and try to be productive. …Honestly, the anxiety is all mental. I have to constantly remind myself that I'm not the only one on this boat," he said. "I'm more amused than anxious as this is the 21st century learning at its finest. Yes, it has its setbacks, but if we really push through by riding the tide with everyone, this isn't so bad after all. It takes a whole lot of discipline and reassurance for me."

As a working student, Santos hopes to remain consistent. "I'm not particularly sure how I will be able to balance all my commitments but I do hope I can in time. I do try my best to maintain a sense of organization by using a planner, which allows me to schedule my day and to list down my tasks," he said. "My goal for this semester is to find and maintain that balance in my life and in all my commitments. I am very involved in the community, especially with various ministries at Saint Jude Parish Church. I love what I do, regardless of wherever I'm at, and so trying to cater to all of that to the best of what I know I can do and what I know I can give is my main goal."

Justine Nauta, wh**o** is pursuing double major in Liberal Arts with Emphasis on Social Work and BS in Rehabilitation and Human Services at NMC, also works as a reporter for *Saipan Tribune*. "The thought of going back to school made me a bit anxious just because the 50th and 54th COVID-19 cases were from within the community, but I got over it knowing that NMC will take all the precautionary measures to keep teachers and students safe. However, once I learned that we will go fully remote, I was content because, with my work schedule where anything can happen, doing online courses made me feel less stressed," she said

"To be honest, although some might argue with me on this, I like the idea that we are doing remote learning. We're still able to do classes as if we are face-to-face, but just through online. Also with my schedule, I don't have to rush from one class to another and so that's a big plus," she added.

Nauta is keeping her eyes on the prize: to graduate and, at the same time, give her 100% at work. "To cope, I pray. [Thank] God for blessing me with so much strength this year or [allowing me to] vent to my boyfriend about my stress. Then I just get over it and I have friends who cheer me on," she said. "…I'm almost graduating, and this pandemic won't stop me. There are many things that I want to accomplish in life, but I need to get my degree(s) first in order to do that."

Third-year student **Tiava To'omata**, who is taking up Bachelor's of Science in Education: Concentration in Special Education at NMC while also working as an employment specialist at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, said she decided to continue going to school because she wants to finish her degree program with no interruptions. "As I enter my third year in college, I realize that I am almost there and would have to push through any and all barriers, including this pandemic, if I would like to accomplish my goal," she said. "I trust the decisions that the NMC board and staff have made as I believe that they are putting into consideration the unique situations we are in right now. Everyone is affected, one way or another, so the best thing to do right now is try our best to accommodate the needs of all students."

According to To'omata, balancing a full-time job as a full-time college student is all about time management." I suggest investing in a planner where you can map out your day-to-day tasks and weekly goals and objectives to ensure that you are on the right track both at work and at school. Jot down all due date of all assignments and any miscellaneous projects that you are also working on. It is also very important to take time out like a 'breather break or 'self-care' day as it is important to maintain your mental health because being a full time employee and a full-time student can get overwhelming," she said.

Her overarching goals are to pass all her classes as well as finish her degree program within the next two years. "I find myself adapting to the current situations I am in, and if that means changing my preferred learning style to an online setting, I will adapt. I grew up with family always insisting that I prioritize my education and that has stuck with me since," she added.

You Sun Lee, who is an incoming freshman at Purdue University in Indiana with plans to take up Psychology, admits to being nervous. School started early in Purdue and Lee who is still on Saipan and works part-time at the Law Office of Joe W. McDoulett, said, "…I didn't know what to expect as my biggest concern was keeping in contact with professors and other students in the class. I overcame those concerns by reaching out to other students who are also taking full online classes," she said. "Helping each other and figuring out how to work the Purdue dashboard really help ease my concerns. …The biggest difference with regard to schooling between pre-COVID-19 and during the pandemic is the learning environment. Learning at home can be challenging, having to manage time, but it also offers flexibility being able to change my schedule to my comfort."

Lee said that working with many websites and navigating them is quite challenging. "…Also the time difference poses a big challenge as I have some meetings late at night. Other than that, my professors have been great in communicating with students and giving clear instructions with what to do in class."

She recently took a break from work to figure out her classes and create an organized time schedule to fit college life into her daily life. "My goal is to expand my knowledge on unfamiliar classes as well as managing my course load and making the most of my online classes," she added.

AQUA

From Page 15

vance order is required.

Pair these desserts with coffee, smoothie, tea, or a specialty drink at Aqua Café. If you rinse and save your Aqua Café cup, you get a free drink of the day and a free starter plant on the third visit. This is Aqua's way of rewarding you for recycling and reusing. Aqua Café is open from 8am to 7pm from Friday to Sunday. Call (670) 322-1234 for more information.

ARC Spa reopens

Relax and unwind are key to describe every experience at the ARC Spa. Avail of their special summer promotion starting at Aromatherapy Facial Care for 60 minutes that includes head to decollete massage for only $40, Aromatherapy Massage for 60 minutes for only $40 and the deluxe aromatherapy massage for 90 minutes (60-minute body massage and 30-minute head to foot massage) for only $50.

If you book your massage between 10am and 5pm, you get a free refreshing tea from the ARC Café. Aqua Resort Club Health Spa is open from 10am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and from 10am to 9pm Friday to Sunday. Advance reservations required. Call (670) 322-1234 for more information.

FOR THOSE IN SEARCH OF AN ADVENTURE IN THE WILD

CNMI
looking for a different kind of tourist

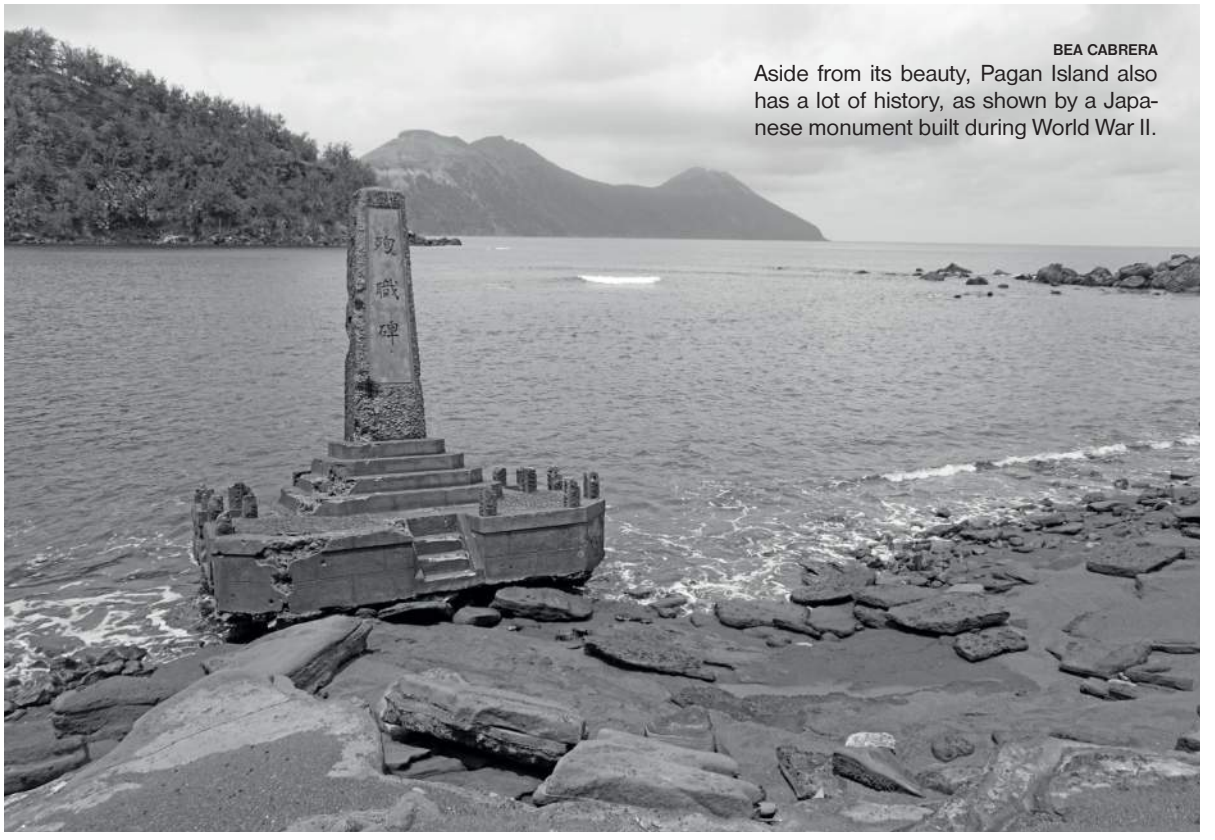
BEA CABRERA
Pagan is one of the Northern Islands and its beauty can only be appreciated if one is ready to take on mountain trails and rugged foot paths.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Plans to open up the Northern Islands to the world has been in the pipeline for quite a while now even before COVID-19 but that mostly just sat on a shelf somewhere, gathering dust. Yet now that the CNMI's entire tourism industry has come to a screeching halt, the Marianas Visitor's Authority is dusting off that plan and is working on shifting the interest of the world to lure adventure-type tourists to see and experience the wild and unspoiled beauty of the isolated Northern Islands.

First off was an online media campaign via the YouTube channel "Deer Meat for Dinner" that is hosted by Robert Arrington. MVA noted that the recent exposure of the Northern Islands via Arrington's channel showed that 19 videos about the Marianas generated 10 million views and has generated many inquiries.

MVA board member Gloria Cavanagh said that many of the inquiries came from people in the U.S. mainland. "We have people calling and most of them are from the mainland. These people have expressed interest and some people are even calling the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to find out what the protocols are, as far as quarantine is concerned," said Cavanagh. "We have had feedback from people who are actually serious about it and we are pleasantly surprised. In the event these people come here, MVA will not hesitate to assist these tourists in trying to help them to get services out there as the would have to charter to go to the Northern Islands."



BEA CABRERA
Aside from its beauty, Pagan Island also has a lot of history, as shown by a Japanese monument built during World War II.

'MVA has no grand illusion that there is going to be millions of dollars coming in. What matters now is serious interest and, if it's going to be just few people every year, that is fantastic because it puts us on the map that the CNMI is also that type of destination.'

A couple wrote the MVA directly about plans to visit. "My wife…and I started planning our trip to the Marianas after Robert's first videos of his first visit to your wonderful paradise. I do not plan to hunt, but I intend to camp (away from the wild cows), go fishing, crabbing, and play some music for some of you on my guitar."

A viewer left a comment under the "Dear Meat for Dinner" You Tube video, saying: "This second visit of Arrington to your islands is only strengthening my resolve to come visit your wonderful island paradise."

According to Cavanagh, the tourists that they want are seasoned adventure-type travelers who would stay in a tent, are into discovering new landscapes, cultures, and don't mind minor inconveniences. "MVA has no grand illusion that there is going to be millions of dollars coming in. What matters now is serious interest and, if it's going to be just few people every year, that is fantastic because it puts us on the map that the CNMI is also that type of destination," she said.

"That is going to be a small market but it's going to be a market like [what] Palau has. …There are no plans to suddenly build a hotel [on] Pagan because these adventure-type tourists don't want to stay in a hotel. If they do, then it would be best for them to just stay on Saipan but if it's adventure, then the Northern Islands will be the perfect fit," she added.

MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita *Iakopo* said in a press statement that her office has been contacted by a group interested in filming an educational documentary in the Northern Islands next year. "…We hope their plans will solidify. We are excited that despite the special logistical needs, the Northern Islands are starting to generate visitor demand…"

Life & Style

Revolting spit and poo brews shown in Swedish exhibit

MALMO, Sweden (AP)—Desperate for a drink? There is spit-fermented wine, liquor fermented in prison toilets, and a strong Scottish brew served from the mouth of a taxidermied squirrel.

The Disgusting Food Museum in Malmo, Sweden, which has served up displays of bull testicles and maggot-infested cheese, is now introducing a drinks menu in the form of a temporary exhibition opening Saturday.

Museum director Andreas Ahrens said he wants to encourage people to examine their relationship with alcohol by showing the extreme measures people have taken to concoct mind-altering brews.

"People are very desperate to get drunk around the world," Ahrens said. "So whenever we find ourselves in a situation where there is no alcohol, we get quite inventive and we've been doing this for millennia."

Most of the drinks on display are beverages that are commonly consumed somewhere in the world but which would revolt outsiders unfamiliar with the taste.

These include bitter herbal liquors like Gammel Dansk, drunk in Denmark, as well as Fernet-Branca, an Italian amaro.

"So much of what we drink is an acquired taste," Ahrens said.

The museum in the Swedish city of Malmo opened two years ago. The idea was to revolt and to entertain -- but also to provoke reflection on how our notions about what is delicious, or disgusting, are culturally determined.

The dozens of food items on regular display include a bull's penis, frog smoothies from Peru, a wine made of baby mice that is consumed in China and Korea, and Sweden's "surstromming," an infamously putrid fermented herring.

Many of the fermented beverages now being exhibited are equally stomach-churning.

One is an ancient Korean beverage concocted for medicinal purposes from fermented child's feces and rice.

Ahrens points to a jug with a milky liquid, brewed with the help of a donation produced by his youngest daughter. He explained that the "poo wine" was part of South Korean traditional medicine to help broken bones and bruises, but it is not anything familiar to Koreans today.

AP

In this photo dated Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020, made available by Disgusting Food Museum, a selection of drinks, including coca leaf liqueur, ant gin, fishy whisky and scorpion vodka along with a squirrel decanter, are on display at the Disgusting Food Museum in Malmo, Sweden, that opened last Saturday, Sept. 5.

Other beverages on display include chicha de muko, which is spit-fermented corn meal beer from Peru, a Ugandan gin made from fermented bananas, and a wine made from an overripe orange fermented in the tank of a prison toilet.

One display tells what happened in the Soviet Union when the government closed alcohol stores to reduce drunkenness: people began drinking perfumes and varnish, leading to the deaths of many.

Another liquid refreshment featured in the exhibition is an Icelandic beer made with whale testicle that's been smoked in sheep's dung.

"Some of these things are so normal in some societies. Should it really be that normal?" Ahrens said. "Why don't we listen to our brains and go, 'Hey, if this tastes this way, maybe we shouldn't drink it?'"

At the entrance to the downtown museum, marks on a blackboard indicate each time someone has vomited while visiting. Ahrens corrects a number to read "2 days since last vomit."

Judge bars Kanye West from appearing on Arizona's ballot

A judge has barred Kanye West from appearing on the Nov. 3 ballot in Arizona, concluding that a voter who challenged his candidacy had shown he would probably prevail and had established the possibility of an irreparable harm if the rapper's name were to appear on the ballot.

The ruling Thursday by Judge Scott McCoy said that the voter who challenged West's bid in Arizona "established that the relative hardships favor him." Putting West on the ballot would create confusion for voters, his lawyers argued.

The decision came a day after West's campaign turned in nearly 58,000 nominating signatures, well over the 39,000 needed to appear on the Arizona ballot. Over the last 10 days, more than 120 people living in other states have registered in Arizona as paid signature gatherers for West, who announced his presidential campaign on July 4. ***(AP)***

'Jeopardy!' returns with new setup and new role for Jennings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jeopardy!" is returning for its 37th season, with greater social distance between Alex Trebek and the contestants, and a new role for all-time great contestant Ken Jennings.

A redesigned set for the coronavirus era will allow for the contestants to be further apart and at a greater distance from Trebek, who has continued as host after a diagnosis last year of pancreatic cancer.

Trebek said last month that he's responding exceptionally well to treatment for and expects to mark his two-year survival next February.

The casting of contestants was done entirely online for this season, which was shot without a studio audience.

Jennings, the record-setting contestant who won on 74 straight shows and took last year's "Jeopardy! The Greatest of All Time" title, is joining the series as a consulting producer.

He'll appear on-air with his own video categories, develop projects and act as a public ambassador for the show.

"Though I've played my last round of JEOPARDY! as a contestant, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to remain involved with my favorite show," Jennings said in a statement. "I'm still in on all the action, but I don't have to worry about phrasing things in the form of a question anymore."

Recent divorcee is surprised to find love close to home

DEAR ABBY: I am recently divorced after a 19-year marriage, and to my great shock, I already find myself in love with another man. I didn't come out of the marriage looking for anyone, nor did I think I'd ever marry again, but this man wants to marry me, and I'm seriously considering it.

We bonded when he contacted me to offer support after he heard about my divorce, and it was love at "second" sight. Why "second"? Because we grew up together—literally next door—and he's my first cousin.

Despite the societal taboo, it is legal in my state for first cousins to marry, and genetic issues with offspring aren't a concern. We're both sterile and have no ability (or desire) for more children. My siblings suspect and aren't pleased with the situation. His parents know and are happy for us.

Am I crazy to think I'm in love again this quickly? It doesn't feel too fast because we've always known each other and been close; it's just that the form of love has changed. How do we break it to the rest of the family? The world? People can be so judgmental, even though in many parts of the world it is perfectly normal to marry your cousin.

SECRET LOVE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SECRET LOVE: You are not "crazy," but you may be in an altered mental state, as many recently divorced people have found themselves. They describe it as a kind of high.

If you are wise—and I hope you are—you will slow this romance down and allow enough time for your family to become accustomed to the changed circumstances of your relationship with your cousin. The "world" isn't going to care about this the way your family does, so don't concern yourself with explaining anything to the general public. (How often have you asked couples to explain if they are related in addition to marriage? Not many, I'll bet.)

My advice is to let this new relationship evolve more slowly. If you do, the outcome may be more positive than if you hurtle to the altar.

DEAR ABBY: I have the best wife and daughter ever, and here's my dilemma. My daughter lives in another state and would love us to build a second home nearby to be closer to their family.

My wife and I are nearly 80 and very active. I play tennis or pickleball every day. My wife walks an hour to an hour and a half every morning. We are happiest when we are active. Where my daughter lives is not conducive to walking, and my wife would be very unhappy.

Please don't suggest a gym or a treadmill—been there, done that. Plus, my wife has no desire to take on the added burden of a second house. We just downsized five years ago. How do I keep the two women in my life happy?

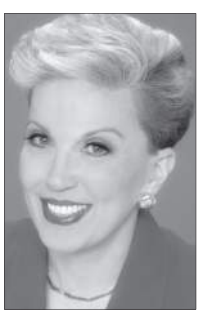
FIGURING IT OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR FIGURING: Recognize that it won't be possible to make both women happy. Your first loyalty should be to your wife.

Explain to your daughter that you know she means well, but that at your ages (80), your routine is extremely important. (It's true.) That routine may be what keeps you as healthy as you are. Back it up with the fact that two homes would be too much for you and her mother to manage, which is why you have BOTH decided—as much as you love her—to keep things as they are. And stick to it. Your daughter can visit you, and you can visit her, but stay where you are.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



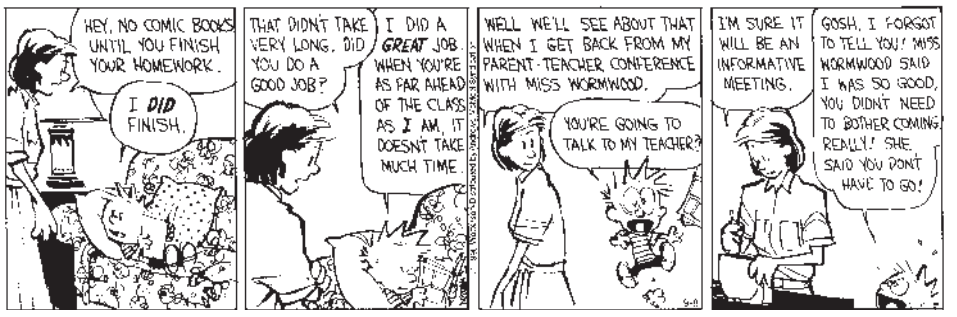
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

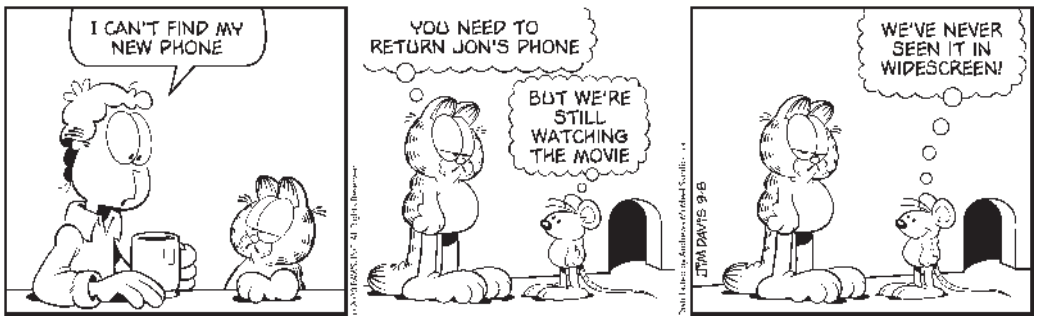
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY, NO COMIC BOOKS UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK.
I DID FINISH.
THAT DIDN'T TAKE VERY LONG. DID YOU DO A GOOD JOB?
I DID A GREAT JOB. WHEN YOU'RE AS FAR AHEAD OF THE CLASS AS I AM, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TIME.
WELL WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT WHEN I GET BACK FROM MY PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE WITH MISS WORMWOOD.
YOU'RE GOING TO TALK TO MY TEACHER?
I'M SURE IT WILL BE AN INFORMATIVE MEETING.
GOSH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU! MISS WORMWOOD SAID I WAS SO GOOD, YOU DIDN'T NEED TO BOTHER COMING. REALLY! SHE SAID YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO!

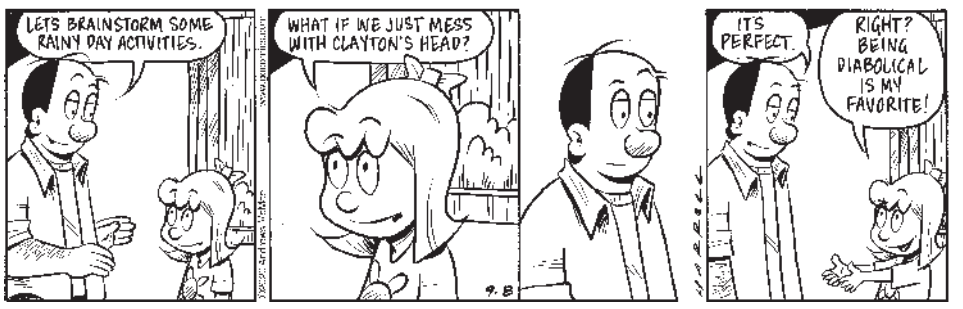
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I CAN'T FIND MY NEW PHONE
YOU NEED TO RETURN JON'S PHONE
BUT WE'RE STILL WATCHING THE MOVIE
WE'VE NEVER SEEN IT IN WIDESCREEN!
JIM DAVIS 9-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LETS BRAINSTORM SOME RAINY DAY ACTIVITIES.
WHAT IF WE JUST MESS WITH CLAYTON'S HEAD?
IT'S PERFECT.
RIGHT? BEING DIABOLICAL IS MY FAVORITE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IF YOU DIG THAT HOLE DEEP MAYBE WE'LL STRIKE OIL AND BECOME RICH.
DO YOU MIND?
IF WE WERE RICH, WE COULD BUY OUR OWN BREWERY AND NAME IT "BANG AND ENDS."
WOULD 300 FEET BE DEEP ENOUGH?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Get wind of
5 Asner and Harris
8 Fed. workplace monitor
12 Competent
13 Camp bed
14 Name of 12 popes
15 Novelist Anita
16 Tithing fraction
18 Penny
20 Quarrel
21 First numero
22 Docs' org.
23 Queued (up)
26 Like some shopping
30 Away from WSW
31 Cauldron
32 Altar constellation
33 50 percent
36 Summoned with a beeper
38 Glacial
39 Joan of —
40 Tubular pasta
43 Sixty minutes
47 Ignoring all else
49 "Casablanca" role
50 Harp's cousin
51 Cardinal cap letters
52 Egg container
53 "Shane" star
54 "Ulalume" writer
55 Clinton's vice president

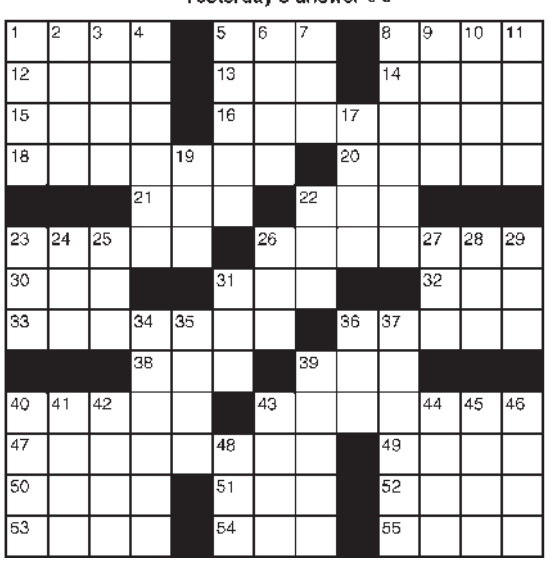
DOWN

1 Angelic light
2 Black, in verse
3 Skin soother
4 Save
5 — Lodge
6 Word of warning
7 Fr. holy woman
8 Puccini works
9 Warble
10 Rwandan people
11 Tennis champ Arthur
17 Docile
19 Conclusion
22 Picnic crasher
23 Zodiac cat
24 Hostel
25 Born
26 Gut-punch reaction
27 Kids' game
28 Miner's find
29 Writer's block?
31 Layer
34 Offered clues
35 Computer brand
36 Opposite of "post-"
37 Sore
39 Bracelet site
40 Survey
41 New Age singer
42 Dweeb
43 Eight (Pref.)
44 Bread spread
45 Cold War initials
46 Assess
48 Nile biter

Solution time: 22 mins.

D	E	B	S	■	H	E	E	■	A	T	T	A
E	■	L	A	■	O	R	A	■	T	R	I	G
S	C	A	N	■	M	A	R	K	T	I	M	E
I	M	B	I	B	E	■	P	L	E	A	S	E
■	■	■	T	O	R	E	■	M	S	N	■	■
M	A	P	Y	T	O	D	D	■	T	G	I	F
O	■	E	■	H	O	S	E	A	■	L	O	A
B	I	A	S	■	M	E	S	S	T	E	N	T
■	■	■	L	T	D	■	L	E	I	A	■	■
A	P	I	E	C	E	■	B	A	R	I	T	Y
M	A	Z	E	L	T	O	V	■	G	C	T	O
A	C	E	R	■	A	X	E	■	E	W	O	K
N	O	D	S	■	L	O	S	■	T	A	P	E

Yesterday's answer 9-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dianne Doan, 30; Pink, 41; David Arquette, 49; Neko Case, 50.

Happy Birthday: Push for change. Embrace the future with optimism, and refuse to let the past hold you back. Focus on the present and how you can parlay what you have done so far with your life into something bold and beautiful. Reaching for the stars will be rewarding and inspire you to explore options that encourage personal growth and enlightenment. Your numbers are 4, 16, 22, 28, 33, 39, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Work toward a goal. Avoid friction with colleagues or anyone who can ruin your day or reputation. Strive to be your best mentally, physically and emotionally, and you will ward off interference and complaints. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't overdo it or take on too much. Keep working toward your goal until you are happy with the results you get. Don't take risks that can hurt your relationship with someone you love or that can lead to injury or poor health. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Speak from the heart, say what's on your mind and do your best to resolve pending problems affecting your personal life. Address family matters, be willing to do your part and offer suggestions that help keep the peace. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Reach out to someone who needs your help. Be a good listener and a loyal friend, and you will gain respect, trust and admiration from someone who will be beneficial to you when you need help or reassurance. A partnership looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Charm and diplomacy will be necessary to sidestep an emotional scene. Refuse to get into a debate with someone unpredictable. Keep the peace, get your facts straight and avoid letting anyone talk you into something you don't want to do. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Expand your interests, pick up new skills and keep up with technology. Being able to use what's available to you will get you ready to move forward with your long-term plans. Be open to suggestions. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of personal matters. Start a new diet or health routine that will help build strength and encourage you to look and feel your best. Spending time with someone you love will help bring you closer. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* People and activities that are informative and spark your imagination will draw your attention. Sign up for online conferences and classes to avoid taking unnecessary health risks. Doing what's right and best for everyone should be your priority. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Someone will give you the wrong impression or lead you to believe something that isn't true. Before you get involved in someone else's plans, do your research. Focus on making changes that will improve your financial situation and health. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make your place inviting, comfortable and convenient for you and your loved ones. The changes will encourage those you live with to do more to pitch in and help with the chores and responsibilities without fussing or complaining. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take time to rejuvenate and pamper yourself. The break will be the pick-me-up you need to tackle some of the pursuits you have on your to-do list. Romance should be a priority, and making plans with someone you love is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful how much information you share online or by phone. Keep your personal information a secret, as well as your plans. Listen to what others have to say, and absorb the information thoroughly before you comment or get involved. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, understanding and dedicated. You are determined and assertive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8	9				
7								6
	5		6		4		3	
3		4	9		7	1		
6				5				4
		2	4		1	9		8
	6		7		3		8	
4								2
			5	1				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/08

Yesterday's Answer

6	3	9	4	8	1	5	7	2
7	1	5	6	3	2	8	4	9
8	2	4	7	5	9	1	6	3
4	9	2	3	6	8	7	5	1
1	7	3	9	4	5	2	8	6
5	8	6	1	2	7	9	3	4
2	4	1	5	7	3	6	9	8
9	6	7	8	1	4	3	2	5
3	5	8	2	9	6	4	1	7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/7

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RED CABBAGE Solution: 7 letters

S	B	B	H	E	T	K	E	A	O	N	I	O	N	S
E	L	R	T	A	E	P	C	L	O	V	E	S	A	N
G	A	A	B	S	I	I	E	U	P	A	L	L	P	I
A	U	S	C	R	D	R	N	V	D	R	A	T	P	S
S	K	S	E	I	A	E	E	O	E	D	U	E	L	I
U	R	I	C	C	M	I	E	D	S	I	D	P	E	A
A	A	C	E	E	I	E	S	S	U	I	L	L	S	R
S	U	A	M	S	N	P	H	I	S	C	N	E	O	E
E	T	O	I	I	E	U	S	C	N	D	E	E	R	C
M	R	F	W	D	M	V	T	L	O	G	E	S	V	I
Y	C	R	D	I	S	H	A	M	L	T	T	R	N	P
Z	L	U	D	H	T	R	A	E	E	A	Y	D	H	E
N	O	I	N	E	U	T	R	A	L	G	O	H	H	S
E	T	T	I	H	C	M	I	K	S	O	I	L	P	Y
Y	D	E	E	T	U	A	S	P	R	E	V	E	N	T

© 2020 Tribune Media Services, Inc. www.wonderword.com 9/8

Acidic, Aids, Allspice, Apples, Blaukraut, Braising, Brassica, Clot, Cloves, Cold, Diet, Dish, Duck, Earth, Enzymes, Fruit, Humidity, Indoor, Kimchi, Leaves, Memory, Neutral, Nutmeg, Oleracea, Onions, Peat, Phytochemicals, Prevent, Purple, Raisins, Recipes, Reduces, Relieve, Salads, Sausages, Sautéed, Seeds, Shred, Side, Soil, Stalks, Venison, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Catcher

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

No Giannis, no problem: Bucks top Heat in OT

AP
Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) dunks in front of Miami players in the first half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo was waiting in the locker room for his teammates Sunday, standing on his bad right ankle to greet every one of them.

His day ended early.

His season isn't over yet.

Khris Middleton scored 36 points, including a big 3-pointer with 6.4 seconds left in overtime, and the Milwaukee Bucks avoided a sweep by beating the Miami Heat 118-115 in overtime of Game 4 of the teams' Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Heat still lead 3-1, but the Bucks—the best team in the regular season—are still alive, even after Antetokounmpo left early in the second quarter with an aggravation of his sprained right ankle.

"Khris is very unique," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "He's got a way about him. He wanted to play. He asked to stay in the game."

As if there was any other option. Middleton's season-high before Sunday was 40 minutes; he logged 48 in Game 4, taking over with Antetokounmpo watching from the locker room.

"Just keep fighting," said Middleton, who also had eight rebounds and eight assists. "That's all my teammates did."

Bam Adebayo had 26 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for Miami. Duncan Robinson scored 20 points, Jae Crowder had 18 and Goran Dragic and Jimmy Butler each finished with 17 for the Heat.

"We didn't deserve to win that game," Butler said.

Miami had an eight-point lead in the fourth quarter, promptly allowed the Bucks to score the next 12, and now needs to come back Tuesday in an effort to finish the series off.

"At the end of the day, we should have played like we did in Game 1, Game 2 and Game 3," Adebayo said.

Antetokounmpo scored 19 points for the Bucks in only 11 minutes, while Brook Lopez and Eric Bledsoe each had 14 for Milwaukee. George Hill added 12 for the Bucks.

Miami managed only two points in the first 4:30 of overtime, got within one on a 3-pointer from Tyler Herro, but Middleton delivered the biggest shot of the night to make it 116-112.

Herro made another 3-pointer with 3.0 seconds left, but Middleton sealed it with a pair of free throws—and Miami coach Erik Spoelstra lauded Milwaukee's effort afterward.

"The reality is, they deserved to win the game," Spoelstra said. "They were doing things with more force, more consistency."

Antetokounmpo had 19 of Milwaukee's first 30 points, shooting 8-for-10 from the floor. But in an instant, everything changed for the Bucks.

Antetokounmpo aggravated his sprained right ankle with 10:18 left in the second quarter, rolling it inward -- just as he did in Game 3 on Friday—as he tried to drive past Miami's Andre Iguodala. He tumbled to the court, grabbing the ankle and screaming in pain.

He took the free throws; without doing that, he would not have been permitted to return. But at halftime, the Bucks delivered the word that he would not be back.

So, his game was over.

The Bucks' season wasn't. Milwaukee said Antetokounmpo would get plenty of treatment Sunday night and Monday before a decision is made about his availability for Tuesday.

"He's going to be back," Bledsoe said.

Lakers 117, Rockets 109

The Los Angeles Lakers were on a wild ride at Disney

A huge lead in the first half had turned into a two-point deficit after three quarters. If they didn't turn things around, the No. 1 seeds would be down 2-0, though Anthony Davis said they weren't thinking about that.

"Our mindset was, `How do we win this game?" he said.

Having LeBron James take over usually does the trick.

James had 28 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, Davis added 34 points and 10 rebounds and the Lakers evened the Western Conference semifinals by beating the Houston Rockets.

Markieff Morris scored 16 points for the Lakers. They opened a 21-point lead in the first half, gave up 41 points in the third quarter to fall behind, and then regrouped behind some high-flying plays by James to pull away again.

"We're at our best when he's in attack mode," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

James took only 15 shots in Game 1 and was scoreless in the fourth quarter of the Lakers' 112-97 loss, saying afterward that the Lakers needed to experience a game to understand how fast the small-ball Rockets play.

"I think we adjusted from Game 1 to Game 2," James said.

And when the Rockets adjusted from the first half to the second, James was dominant on both ends in the final period. He had eight points in the quarter and a powerful blocked shot on Russell Westbrook that flew far out of bounds.

James Harden scored 27 points and Eric Gordon made six 3-pointers and added 24 for the Rockets, who made 22 3-pointers. P.J. Tucker had 18 points and Robert Covington 17, but Westbrook finished only 4 for 15 while scoring 10 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

"They just came out and played harder than us, I feel like," Harden said. "In the second half, we woke up and took the lead. We've just got to have that intensity at the beginning of the game and we'll be all right."

Game 3 is Tuesday night.

The Lakers also dropped their opener against Portland in the first round but won Game 2 comfortably on their way to four straight victories.

Bears officially name Trubisky as starting QB

CHICAGO—Few were betting on Mitchell Trubisky to win the starting job after the Bears traded for Nick Foles in March. The Bears, though, are betting on Trubisky.

They made official what leaked Friday, with coach Matt Nagy announcing that "Mitchell Trubisky is our starting quarterback." The Bears posted it on social media Sunday, a week before the season opener.

It assures Trubisky at least one more game to live up to the No. 2 overall choice the team used on him in 2017. The Bears' choice of Trubisky after trading up for him has become even more glaring this offseason with the two quarterbacks selected after him—Patrick Mahomes and Deshaun Watson—getting mega contract extensions.

The Bears declined his fifth-year option, so Trubisky is entering the final season of his rookie deal.

He has a 23-18 record with 48 touchdowns, 29 interceptions and an 85.8 passer rating.

Foles, the Super Bowl LII MVP, is in a familiar spot, serving as a backup to a former first-round draft choice.

Trubisky earned one last shot at determining his future.

"I control my own destiny," he said Sunday.

Those five words will define not only 2020 for Trubisky, but the rest of his football life. So while most of our energy is focused on what Trubisky being named QB1 means for this year's Bears, let's take a moment to focus on what it means to the 26-year-old quarterback.

It means everything.

Will Trubisky's career go the way of Marcus Mariota, who was dumped as the Tennessee Titans quarterback after six games in 2019 and is now relegated to (well-paying) backup duties with the Las Vegas Raiders?

Will the 2017 No. 2 overall pick follow the rocky, mostly-short NFL paths of the other six quarterbacks to not have their fifth year options picked up for performance reasons?

Or will Trubisky chart his own course and do something Jake Locker, Blaine Gabbert, Christian Ponder, E.J. Manuel, Brandon Weeden, Johnny Manziel and Paxton Lynch couldn't—hang on to not only a starting job in the NFL, but with the team that drafted him?

"It's a new year and we all have a clean slate, and we're not looking back at the past," Trubisky said. "I'm not looking over my shoulder. I'm just going to take advantage of the opportunity ahead and it feels good. It's exciting."

Trubisky has almost everything Chicago loves in its pro athletes. He can be a fiery, galvanizing leader. He's got a great work ethic, which meshes well with a fanbase that delights in blue-collar mentalities. He can be goofy and charming and engaging (when things are going well, of course).

And he genuinely cares about the community around him t—he was one a handful of Chicago athletes to pitch in to help former Bears linebacker Sam Acho purchase a liquor store in Austin and turn it into a grocery store, removing a food desert on the west side of the city in the process. He also does stuff like this, and doesn't do it for the attention or good publicity

Djokovic ousted after hitting line judge with ball

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic checks a linesman after hitting her with a ball in reaction to losing a point to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta during the fourth round of the US Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Novak Djokovic was kicked out of the U.S. Open for accidentally hitting a line judge in the throat with a tennis ball after dropping a game in his fourth-round match Sunday, a stunning end to his 29-match winning streak and bid for an 18th Grand Slam title.

As he walked to the Arthur Ashe Stadium sideline for a changeover, trailing Pablo Carreño Busta 6-5 in the first set, Djokovic—who was seeded and ranked No. 1 and an overwhelming favorite for the championship—angrily smacked a ball behind him. The ball flew right at the line judge, who dropped to her knees at the back of the court and reached for her neck.

During a discussion of about 10 minutes near the net involving tournament referee Soeren Friemel, Grand Slam supervisor Andreas Egli and chair umpire Aurelie Tourte, Djokovic pleaded his case.

"His point was that he didn't hit the line umpire intentionally. He said, 'Yes, I was angry. I hit the ball. I hit the line umpire. The facts are very clear. But it wasn't my intent. I didn't do it on purpose.' So he said he shouldn't be defaulted for it," said Friemel, who made the decision to end the match. "And we all agree that he didn't do it on purpose, but the facts are still that he hit the line umpire and the line umpire was clearly hurt."

Friemel didn't see what happened, and said he was not allowed to check a video replay, but was given a rundown by Egli and Tourte. Friemel said that even if Djokovic didn't intend to hurt the line judge, she was hurt, and that was enough to merit the ruling.

Eventually, Djokovic walked over to shake hands with Carreño Busta. Tourte then announced that Djokovic was defaulted, the tennis equivalent of an ejection.

"I was a little bit in shock, no?" Carreño Busta said later at a news conference done via video conference because of social-distancing rules at the U.S. Open, the first Grand Slam tournament staged amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Djokovic quickly left the tournament grounds without speaking to reporters, posting an apology on social media hours later.

"This whole situation has left me really sad and empty. I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong," Djokovic wrote.

"As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being," he wrote. "I apologize to the @usopen tournament and everyone associated for my behavior."

Asked whether he thought Djokovic should have been allowed to continue to play, Carreño Busta shrugged and replied: "Well, the rules are the rules. ... The referee and the supervisor (did) the right thing, but it's not easy to do it."

Indeed, the U.S. Tennis Association issued a statement saying that Friemel defaulted Djokovic "in accordance with the Grand Slam rulebook, following his actions of intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences."

The USTA went on to say Djokovic forfeits the ranking points and $250,000 in prize money he earned in the tournament—"in addition to any or all fines levied with respect to the offending incident."

"Novak was angry. He hit the ball recklessly, angrily back. And taking everything into consideration, there was no discretion involved," Friemel said. "Defaulting a player at a Grand Slam is a very important, very tough decision. And for that reason, it doesn't matter if it's on Ashe, if it's No. 1, or any other player on any other court, you need to get it right."

This was the latest example of Djokovic finding himself at the center of the tennis world for a reason other than his best-in-the-game returns, can't-miss groundstrokes and body-contorting defensive prowess.

Djokovic tested positive for the coronavirus—as did his wife, one of his coaches and other players—after participating in a series of exhibition matches with zero social distancing he organized in Serbia and Croatia in June.

Then, on the eve of the U.S. Open, he helped establish a new association he says will represent men's tennis players.

And, of course, there's been his dominance on the court.

Djokovic began the day 26-0 this season and with an unbeaten run that extended to his last three matches of 2019. He had won five of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments to raise his total to 17, closing in on rivals Roger Federer, who has a men's-record 20, and Rafael Nadal, who has 19.

With reigning U.S. Open champion Nadal, who cited concerns about traveling amid the pandemic, and Federer, sidelined after two knee operations, not in the field, the 33-year-old from Serbia was expected to claim a fourth trophy in New York and gain on them.

But it all came apart so suddenly Sunday. Djokovic wasn't looking in the line judge's direction when his racket made contact with the ball, and there was concern on his face as soon as he realized what had happened.

Players who hit a ball out of anger and make contact with an on-court official have been disqualified in the past.

In 2017, Denis Shapovalov—the 21-year-old Canadian who is Carreño Busta's next opponent—was defaulted from a Davis Cup match against Britain when he accidentally hit the chair umpire in the face with a ball. At Wimbledon in 1995, Tim Henman hit a ball into the head of a ball girl and was defaulted from a doubles match.

Among the many oddities about the 2020 U.S. Open, which has no spectators, is that only the two largest arenas — Ashe and Louis Armstrong Stadium—have full complements of line judges. Elsewhere, chair umpires are aided by an electronic line-calling system.

Djokovic's mood had soured over the preceding few minutes Sunday. In the prior game, he wasted three consecutive break points, then whacked a ball off a courtside advertising sign.

On the second point of what would become Djokovic's last game at this year's U.S. Open, he stumbled and fell, clutching his left shoulder.

Play was delayed for a few minutes while a trainer checked on him.

On the second point after they resumed, the 20th-seeded Carreño Busta hit a passing winner to break Djokovic's serve. That's when Djokovic got himself into trouble.

Johnson poised to take $15M prize in FedEx Cup

ATLANTA (AP) — Dustin Johnson watched his opening drive sail long and fall gently to the right, just like he imagined. So did the next drive. It was like that all day at East Lake, and the outcome was predictable.

Johnson is playing the best golf and looks tougher than ever to beat.

When he finished with a 10-foot birdie, Johnson matched the low round Sunday with a 6-under 64 to build a five-shot lead over Justin Thomas and Xander Schauffele in the Tour Championship, leaving him one round away from the FedEx Cup and its $15 million prize.

"I've got a lot of confidence in everything I'm doing right now," Johnson said.

A quick fix on the range the previous evening was all he needed to get straightened out. Johnson missed only three fairways, and not by much. He putted for birdie on all but three holes and made seven of them.

"He's showcased what he can do," Schauffele said. "If he does what he normally does, it's going to be almost impossible to catch him."

Normal these days for Johnson must be daunting for everyone else.

He was at 19-under par, making this his four consecutive start with at least a share of the 54-hole lead. He converted one of those into an 11-shot victory at the TPC Boston. He lost to a 65 by Collin Morikawa in the PGA Championship and o a 65-foot putt by Jon Rahm in a playoff last week at Olympia Fields.

"We're going to need Dustin to throw us a bone and not have a good day," said Rahm, who was six shots back.

Johnson knows better than anyone that it's not over. He had a six-shot lead in Shanghai three years ago and failed to win, though he had a new set of irons and was coming off a five-week break. He also had a five-shot lead at The Northern Trust two weeks ago and obliterated the course and the field to win by 11.

"If he hits the ball like everybody knows he can and the way he's putting ... I haven't seen him putt that well in a long time," Harris English said. "It's hard to stop."

Only four players have a reasonable chance of catching him.

Schauffele, a big-game player who won the Tour Championship three years ago, dropped only one shot on the front nine and finished with a 10-foot birdie putt for a 67 that put him in the final group with Johnson.

Thomas missed a 16-inch par putt on the 10th hole that he carelessly went to tap in, bounced back with a 25-foot birdie putt on the toughest par 3 at East Lake and made two more birdies coming for a 66.

They were at 14 under.

"DJ is clearly playing well. It wasn't easy today," Thomas said.

Cards tighten NL Central race, beat Cubs

CHICAGO (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer off a struggling Jon Lester, and the St. Louis Cardinals gained ground in the NL Central race by beating the Chicago Cubs 7-3 on Sunday night.

St. Louis pulled within 1 1/2 games of Chicago with its third consecutive win over the division leaders. The longtime rivals have one game left in their pandemic-shortened season series on Monday.

Dakota Hudson (2-2) worked five innings of three-run ball, shrugging off a shaky start.

Chicago dropped to 10-15 since its 13-3 start. Anthony Rizzo and Jason Kipnis homered for the Cubs, but Lester (2-2) lasted just 3 1/3 innings in another lackluster performance.

Angels 9, Astros 5

Anthony Rendon homered, Jared Walsh and Justin Upton delivered key hits during a four-run eighth inning and Los Angeles swept the four-game series.

The Angels have a won a season-high five straight. They trailed by at least three runs in each game against Houston before rallying.

Padres 5, Athletics 3

Fernando Tatis Jr. matched Angels slugger Mike Trout for the majors' home run lead with his 15th, a two-run drive in the seventh inning that sent San Diego over Oakland.

Garrett Richards (2-2) struck out nine and didn't walk a batter over seven sharp innings to end a four-start winless stretch.

Indians 4, Brewers 1

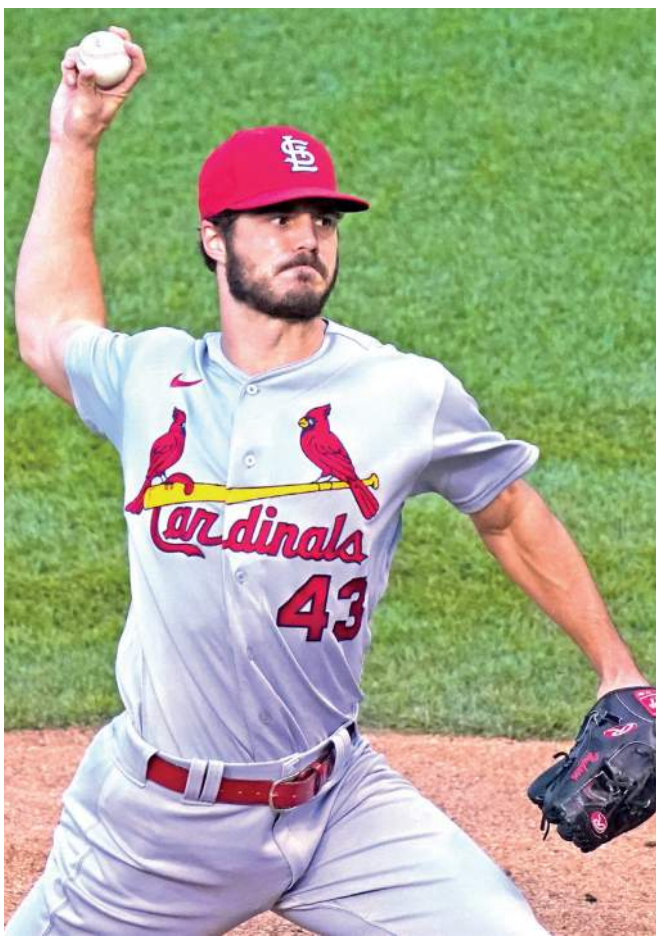
Shane Bieber struck out 10 in five innings to remain unbeaten in 2020, leading Cleveland over Milwaukee.

Bieber (7-0) only allowed one run and five singles, but the right-hander ran up his pitch count— 58 combined in the fourth and fifth innings—and needed Cleveland's bullpen to finish things off.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 6

Matt Kemp hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning against his former team, and the Colorado Rockies sent the Dodgers to their first series loss of the season.

Kemp connected off Caleb Ferguson (2-1) for the sixth homer in a back-and-forth game between the NL West rivals.



AP

St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Dakota Hudson throws against the Chicago Cubs during the first inning of a baseball game in Chicago, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020

Orioles 5, Yankees 1

Dean Kremer allowed one hit over six innings and struck out seven in his major league debut, DJ Stewart homered off Masahiro Tanaka and Baltimore beat skidding New York.

The Orioles won their third in a row over the Yankeees after losing 19 straight to them.

Rays 5, Marlins 4

Brandon Lowe hit a sacrifice fly to complete a two-run 10th inning for AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Ji-Man Choi hit a tying double off Brandon Kintzler (1-3) to begin the 10th and pinch-runner Brett Phillips advanced to third on Michael Perez's fly to deep center.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 8

Cavan Biggio's two-run double capped a six-run fifth inning, Rowdy Tellez and Caleb Joseph homered and Toronto held off Boston.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had four singles for the Blue Jays.

Tigers 10, Twins 8

Grayson Greiner hit a tie-breaking homer in the eighth inning off left fielder Eddie Rosario's glove to lift Detroit.

The Tigers erased a four-run deficit by raking Minnesota's relievers for eight runs in the late innings. The Tigers snapped a streak of five straight losses to the Twins.

White Sox 8, Royals 2

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer, Dallas Keuchel threw five scoreless innings and Chicago completed a four-game sweep.

Keuchel (6-2) left the game with lower back stiffness after throwing a few warmup pitches before the sixth inning.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3

Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer and rookie Kyle Lewis added a solo shot for Seattle.

The surging Mariners won their fifth straight and 10th of 13 after an 8-19 start.

Seager lined his sixth home run of the season in the first inning off Texas starter Jordan Lyles (1-4).

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 2

Donovan Solano hit a two-run, go-ahead homer in the sixth inning and the Giants beat the Diamondbacks.

Brandon Belt and Chadwick Tromp also went deep for the Giants, who improved to 7-2 against the Diamondbacks this season.

TENNIS

From Page 24

demand among both kids and adults to get back out on the court. Tennis is rated at the top of sports both for fitness and safety during these times," Race said.

CNMI Junior National player Jimin Woo is among the young players, who for months had been waiting for the reopening of the facility.

"It's a good thing that the AMP court have reopened to the public. Finding courts to hit on was nearly impossible since COVID-19 came, but now that the AMP courts are open, it would be easy to just go to there and practice," said Woo, who was scheduled to train in Fiji during the school break, but had to stay put and continue playing here due to the pandemic.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players hold scrimmages at the American Memorial Park tennis courts yesterday.

Bobby Cruz, another player utilizing the public courts at the AMP before they were temporarily closed, has called on his fellow players and others using the facility to continue observing safety precautions during and after playing.

"Coach Jeff Race has already sent out guidance to the tennis community regarding the safe practices while playing tennis. The tennis community is very responsible. It's important that we continue to practice appropriate social distancing, have sanitizers that we use often during change-over, avoid physical contact, and make sure that we adhere to safety protocols," Cruz said.

"I'm extremely happy that the American Memorial Park tennis courts are open. I know that many members of the tennis community feel the same way too. The physical wellness and mental health of many individuals who play tennis is going to improve because of the reopening of the courts," he added.

Besides the safety guidelines that Race and the NMITA sent out to players and coaches, signages are also posted on the entrance of each court, including the U.S. Tennis Association's "Playing Tennis Safely" tips and recommendations.

ONE

From Page 24

wards struggled in the first three games, as they narrowly defeated 2017 champion Palau, 1-0, before absorbing back-to-back heartbreakers after falling to Guan, 5-6, and New Caledonia, 2-3.

Facing elimination, the CNMI had to win its last two games to avoid the axe and Rogolifoi, despite their so-so performance in the first three matches, kept his faith with his crew.

"I never doubted them even though we lost twice in a row. I knew these guys, how they play, especially in games that counted the most," Rogolifoi said.

The Commonwealth sluggers repaid their coach's trust with a pair of victories that also put the team in the playoff round. The CNMI first downed American Samoa, 9-4, and then edged Fiji, 2-1, to notch the last playoff ticket and keep their gold medal hopes alive.

Guam and Palau took the first two semis berths after ending the elimination with similar 4-1 marks and the former eventually moved into the finals after shutting down the latter in the opening playoff game, 4-0. In the second day of the playoffs, the CNMI saw action in back-to-back games, ousting the No. 3 seed New Caledonia first, 11-5, and then dominating Palau, 8-0, to advance to the gold medal match against Guam.

The finals was played right on the following day and a well-rested Guam crew got the better of the weary CNMI team, but only in the first two innings as the former took 2-0 head. In the third inning, pitching ace Josh Jones took over the mound and neutralized Guam batters. He led the CNMI comeback by yielding only two runs, one each in the third and sixth inning.

Besides closing out for the CNMI in the gold medal game against Guam, Jones, who played collegiate baseball for two schools in the U.S. after his stint with the Commonwealth team, also pitched in their make-or-break matches versus New Caledonia and Palau.

"I rested Josh for the crucial games and he delivered. Josh was so amazing, as he gave us the needed lift in the last three matches," Rogolifoi said.

In the final three games, Jones pitched 31 innings, allowed less than 10 hits, and struck out more than 30 batters.

Joining Jones, Rogoligoi and Saipan Baseball League president Rose Igitol on the CNMI gold medal team were Juan Maratita, Eric Tenorio, Ian Rogolifoi, Keoni Lizama, Mike Iguel, Vince Cepeda, Elton Santos, Jesus Iguel, Tyrone Omar, Franco Flores, Thomas Joab, Jerome Delos Santos, Byron Kaipat, Manny Sablan, and Craig Sanchez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2011 file photo, CNMI players flash the No. 1 sign after beating Guam in the gold medal game in the Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

No Giannis, no problem: Bucks top Heat in OT

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

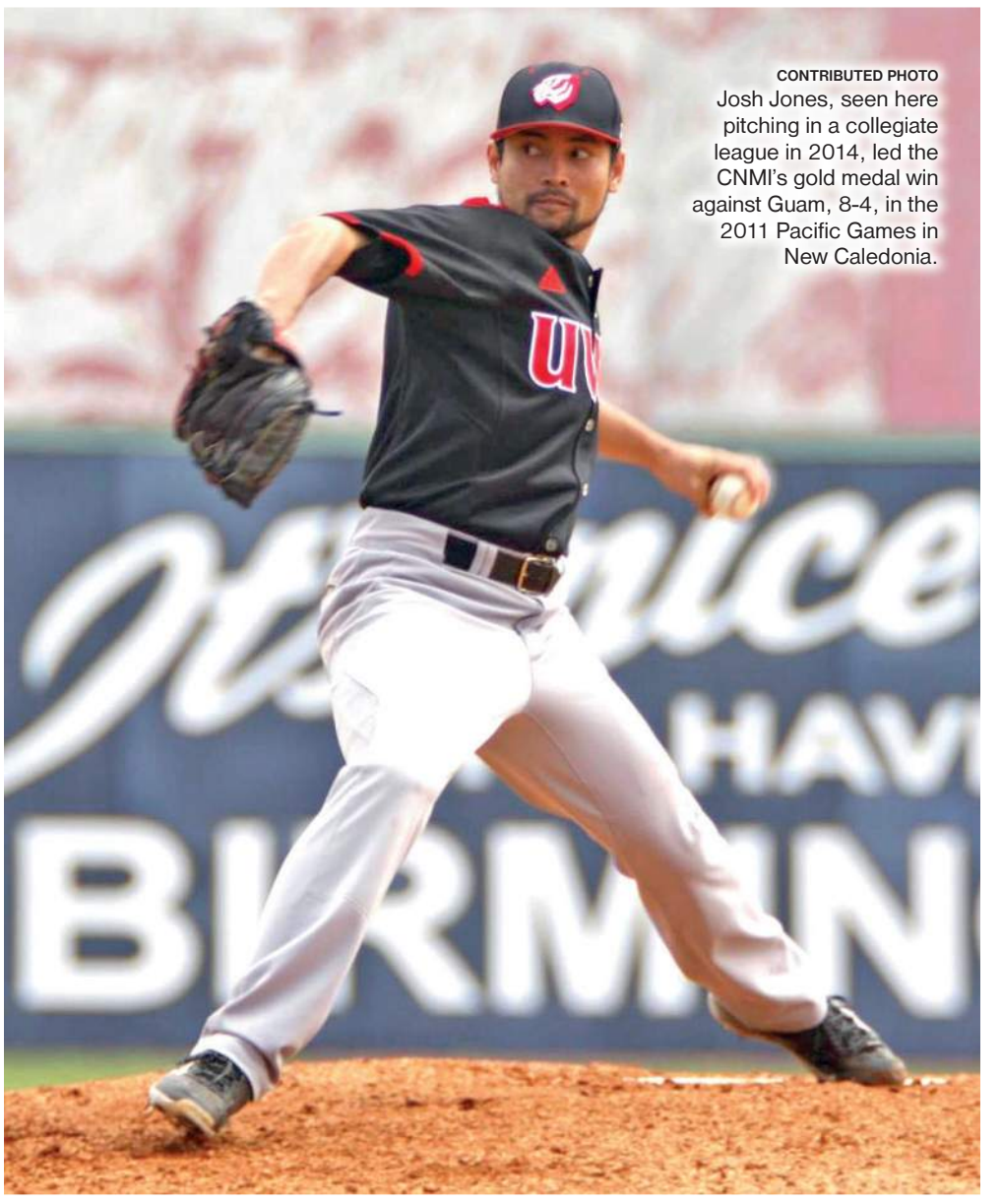
Djokovic ousted after hitting line judge with ball

PAGE 22

CNMI BASEBALL TEAM'S WIN IN PACIFIC GAMES

One for the books

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2011 file photo, the CNMI anthem is played after the Commonwealth won the gold medal in the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Josh Jones, seen here pitching in a collegiate league in 2014, led the CNMI's gold medal win against Guam, 8-4, in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Tony Rogolifoi may have recorded hundreds of victories in his more than two decades of coaching in baseball, but one just simply stands out—the Commonwealth's triumph in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

On Sept. 8, nine years ago, the CNMI defeated rival Guam, 8-4, in the gold medal game, proving that the former is a forced to be reckoned with at the diamond.

"If I were to rank that gold medal win among the victories I had, it will definitely be the first because we beat bigger and best teams in the entire Pacific," said Rogolifoi when asked to recall the CNMI's winning moment in Noumea.

"We're the best in the Pacific," the many-time national baseball team coach/manager added.

The road to getting the coveted gold medal was not easy for the squad that nearly did not make it to New Caledonia due to funding problems. The 16-man team managed to pull some strings and confirmed its participation in the quadrennial competition less than a month before the event kicked off.

Then when the Pacific Games started, Rogolifoi's

See ONE on Page 23

Tennis community welcomes AMP courts reopening

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A signage on safety guidelines is posted in one of the four tennis courts at the American Memorial Park, which reopened the facility last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Players are back to training and holding scrimmages as the American Memorial Park tennis courts reopened last Saturday.

"Thanks to the National Park Service for getting this important venue open again," Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president and many-time national team coach Jeff Race said, as he announced the good news to the tennis community last weekend.

The tennis facility was closed in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving players, both competitive and recreational, without a public court for their games and practice sessions. Some tried to get slots on various courts in hotels, but they are limited, so the reopening of the four courts at the AMP is a big relief to both players and coaches.

"There's a lot of excitement in the tennis community. I think there's a pent-up

See TENNIS on Page 23